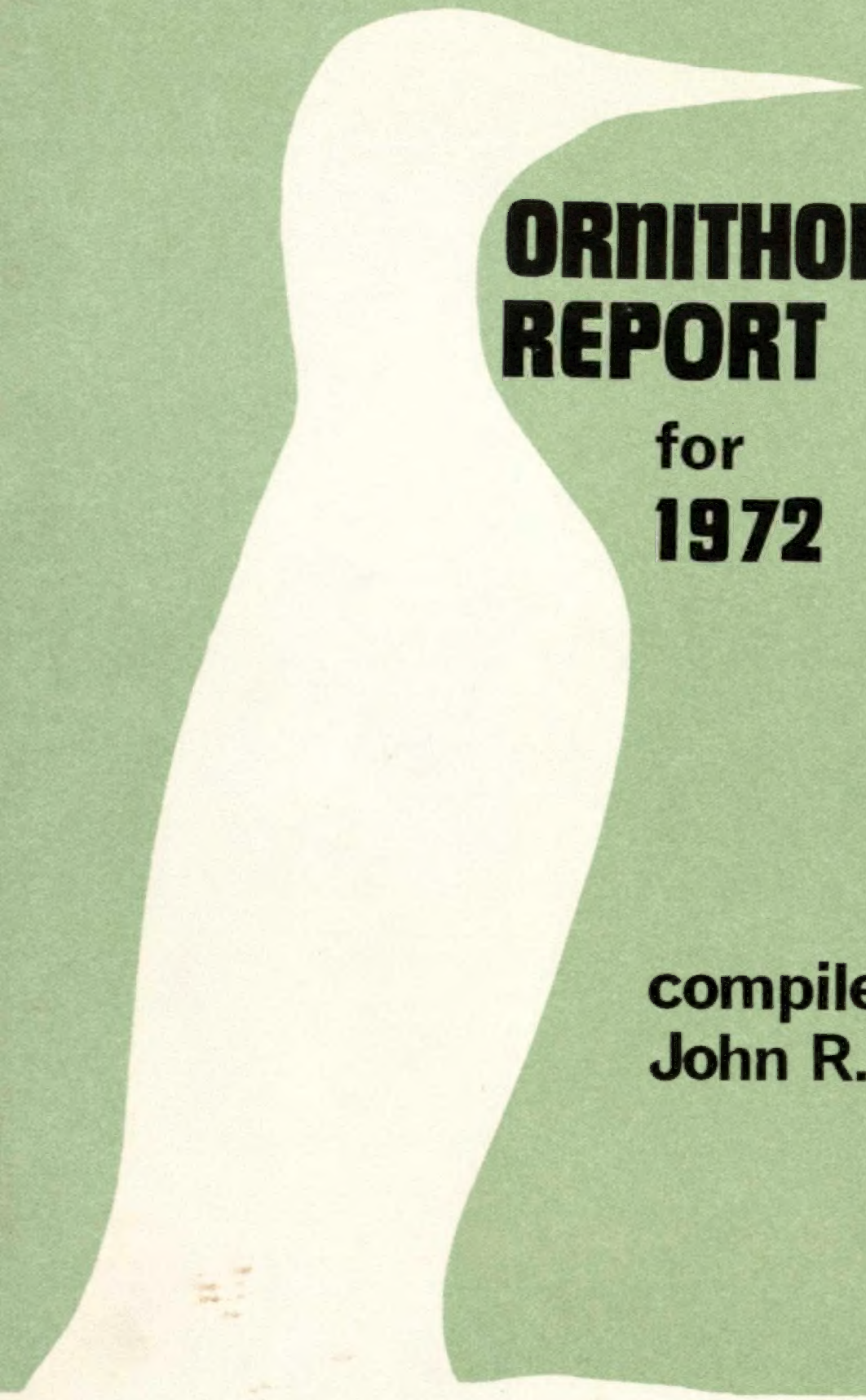
Yorkshire Naturalists' Union



# ORNITHOLOGICAL REPORT

## for 1972

compiled by:
John R. Mather

*DUPLICATE COPIES AVAILABLE FROM THE VICE-COUNTY RECORDERS:* **PRICE 20p**

## Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Ornithological Section

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The Recorders, together with A. J. Wallis, form the Reports Committee

### REPORT FOR 1972 – Compiled by John R. Mather

Three new species were added to the county list during 1972. A Crested Lark trapped at Tunstall on the 11th June, a Rufous Bush Robin at Flamborough Head on the 5th and 6th October and a Cetti's Warbler trapped at Hornsea on the 2nd November.

Amongst other notable species seen were a Purple Heron at Hornsea Mere from August to October and a Spoonbill in the Spurn area during May and June. A Blue-winged Teal appeared at Fairburn Ings for the second year and the Green-winged Teal was at Gouthwaite Reservoir for the fourth successive Spring. It is encouraging to report that the Goosander seems to be established as a Yorkshire breeding species.

Birds of prey always excite and fourteen species were recorded during the year, amongst them an interesting series of Goshawk records, a Red Kite seen at three localities on the 11th and 12th March, three Honey Buzzards, several passing Marsh Harriers, three Ospreys, two Hobbys and a Red-footed Falcon.

Quail featured well with eleven birds calling from eight localities. A Spotted Crake was seen at Fairburn Ings in August and October – I suspect this species is overlooked. Corncrakes were calling at four places in June and two passage birds were flushed on the coast in autumn. Kentish Plover occurred again and two were seen, one at Fairburn Ings and one near South Gare. Dotterels continue to pass through the east of the county in spring and to a lesser degree in autumn. A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Birkin in July, an unusual date for this North American wader. The year was certainly a good one for Curlew Sandpipers and more were seen than for some time. Another American species, Wilson's Phalarope, was at Fairburn Ings in September and a Stone Curlew was at Durkar Sand quarries in the same month.

Three Mediterranean Gulls were seen, two at Spurn and one at Hornsea, another species which is recorded more frequently now than a decade ago. Two Caspian Terns

were amongst the more exciting birds. One was on Coatham Sands in early August and one was flying north at Kettleness at the month-end. The same bird may have been involved. Black Guillemot is an interesting species to report and one which occurs very infrequently on the Yorkshire coast. One was at Spurn in October and singles were off Scarborough and Filey on several dates in November and December.

An Alpine Swift flew south at Spurn in July and there were three records of Hoopoes in May. A Golden Oriole sang near Market Weighton in May and there were females at Spurn and Hornsea in June. There were many records of Bearded Tits for the second year running, some of which had remained over from 1971, but there was an influx into the county during October.

Perhaps the most spectacular sight of all, at least to those observers who are not interested merely in seeing rare birds was the great Fieldfare influx on the 21st October. Very many thousands of birds came into the country and although large numbers come into Britain each autumn, they seldom move together in such vast numbers and on such a wide front. It may be a long time before the circumstances leading to such an enormous movement occur again.

Single Bonelli's Warblers were at Redcar and Spurn in August and several Yellow-browed Warblers occurred at the end of September and during October. Firecrest is another species which occurs more frequently now than a few years ago and there were records at six localities from South Gare to Spurn where there were up to eight in early October. There was a sprinkling of Red-breasted Flycatchers along the coast in autumn with up to three at Spurn in late September. The second county Red-throated Pipit was trapped at Spurn on the 21st September. A Woodchat Shrike was at Tunstall in May and a few Red-backed Shrikes passed through in spring and autumn.

The year was exceptional for Goldfinches and many large flocks were reported. Twite, too, were more numerous than ever before. An Arctic Redpoll caught at Spurn on the 5th November was one of eight records for Britain during the same period. Single Scarlet Rosefinches were at Flamborough Head and Spurn in mid-September, a Two-barred Crossbill at Whitby in August and a Little Bunting was caught at South Gare in early October.

Full details of all the species mentioned in the above summary will be found in the classified list.

I must again appeal to local report editors. Many records appear without localities and some even without dates. Such are rendered worthless and deserve proper documentation. Observers' initials may not seem important to some editors – many omit them altogether, but they are indeed very necessary. They serve several purposes; to give credit and encouragement to those who have sent in records; for future researchers to identify a record with a particular observer, perhaps to retrospectively reconsider it, and from my position as county editor, to associate record and observer immediately, eliminating the need to phone or write seeking confirmation of the authenticity of a sub-rarity or out-of-season bird. Not all records need initials of course, but many do for the reasons given above. Most observers and local recorders co-operate with the Y.N.U. rare birds committee but some do not. Failure to do so is often for naive reasons and those involved are surprised when told of the need for a written description. Can I again request full co-operation in the submitting of descriptions to the appropriate vice-county recorders. It is simply a matter of achieving a uniform acceptance standard which all observers interested in the written record must surely want to see.

To those who have contributed to this Yorkshire report for 1972 I am greatly indebted. There are few better counties in which to watch birds as the species list which follows will show.

John R. Mather, Chairman, Reports Committee, October 1973

**Classified List**

The sequence used is that of the B.O.U. 1952 **Check List of the Birds of Great Britain and Ireland** but the nomenclature is that of the most recent British list, **The Status of Birds in Britain and Ireland**, B.O.U., 1971.

1. **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia arctica*

One at Bridlington on 4th January (RL). One at Hornsea on 6th September (WFC), and one at Flamborough on 23rd September (DIMW).

One at Spurn on 29th September and one flew over the peninsula on 12th November. One flew north at South Gare, Teesmouth on 11th November (DJB).

2. **Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

One was on Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough from 2nd to 12th January (RHA, IJP). One flew north off Hornsea on 28th May, two on 3rd September and one flew south on 9th September (WFC). One flew north off Kettleness on 28th October (PAL). Two were at Spurn on 27th September.

4. **Red-throated Diver** *Gavia stellata*

The largest number recorded on the coast was about 60 flying south off Filey on 12th February (RHA, FJT). Eight flew north and 19 south at the same place on 26th February (FJT) and there were 17 on the sea there on 25th November (RHA). Spurn had the largest numbers with 178 on 12th January as the maximum, otherwise between 10 and 30 on several dates in January and February and September to December. One to two occurred on a few dates in June, July and August. Elsewhere, coastal records involved only a few birds.

Inland occurrences were more numerous than usual: One at Wintersett Res. from 5th February to 5th March when it was seen to fly off (PBW. PS. *et al.)*, one at Fairburn Ings from 3rd February to 18th March (CW *et al.)*, one found dead at Stocks Res. on 15th March (HC), one in breeding plumage on Scar Gill Res. near Harrogate on 18th May (JLCG), one at Oakhill Pond, Goole on 25th March (AS) and one at Strines Res. from 3rd to 10th December was found dead on the 12th December (per DHA).

5. **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*

Breeding reports showed similar numbers to 1971 with between 60 and 70 pairs in the county. Wintersett Res. and Swillington Ings had the largest spring gatherings on 25th March with 24 and 38 birds respectively. The maximum at Hornsea Mere was also on 25th March when 21 birds were present.

6. **Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps griseigena*

Very few records compared with 1970 and 1971. One at Saltburn on 5th January (DJB), two at Filey on 22nd January (RHA), one at Hornsea Mere from 16th to 23rd January and 4th to 19th February. One at Spurn on 8th September and one at Scaling Dam on 29th October (RHA).

7. **Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

One in Bridlington harbour on 18th January (RL), one at Hornsea Mere on 16th and 17th February with two there on 26th and 27th October and 29th November (DTI). One in summer plumage on the sea off Atwick on 31st May and again on 28th August (WFC).

Inland, one at Southfield Res. on 11th February (SLJ) one at Castle Howard Lake on 6th February and two at Knotford Nook G.P. from 17th to 24th December (PS. PJC. ECS. *et al.)*. One at Eccup Res. on 29th and 30th December.

8. **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

Singles at Hornsea Mere on 29th and 30th January, 4th February, 12th to 19th February, 14th and 15th October, 26th and 27th October and 9th to 18th November (DTI). One at Tophill Low Res. on 24th December (SGW). Two were on the Upper Humber on 5th November (AS. BG. RH).

9. **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Detailed records of breeding birds in V.C. 63 showed 36 pairs from 18 waters. Several waters in the county held large gatherings in the autumn, 38 at Wintersett on 20th September, 40 at Swillington Ings during August and September, 30 at Bolton Ings on 31st August, and 27 at Malham Tarn on 14th October being the maximum.

12. **Leach's Petrel** *Oceanodroma leucorrhoa*

One was watched for 50 minutes at Wintersett Res. on 5th September as it flew around and rested on the water (PS).

Three *petrels* flying north off Spurn on 19th September were not specifically identified.

16. **Manx Shearwater** *Puffinus puffinus*

Passage northwards was noted in spring at Spurn and Scalby Mills. Spurn had two on 9th April, then a good movement from 27th to 30th May with 68 in the latter day being the maximum. Smaller numbers passed on a few days in June with 42 as the daily maximum. Four flew north off Scalby Mills on 29th May with three north and three south on 30th. July and August were the months of largest movement and watchers at Kettleness, Filey, Flamborough, Hornsea, Scalby and Spurn recorded good numbers. Up to 30 birds on any one day was usual, the maxima being 35 south off Scalby Mills on 6th July and 76 south and 10 north at the same place on 12th July (IJP. CC). Small numbers were seen at several places up to 24th September with two off Spurn on 21st October and two flying south off South Gare, Teesmouth on 13th November (PB).

21. **Sooty Shearwater** *Puffinus griseus*

A good year for the species with small numbers, up to four, passing off Spurn, Hornsea, Scalby Mills and South Gare on several dates from 4th August to 29th October. Some larger movements occurred; 13 flew north off Hornsea on 4th September and 39 on 17th (WFC). Spurn had 27 flying north on 23rd September, 94 on 24th and 24 on 25th.

26. **Fulmar** *Fulmarus glacialis*

100 flew south off Filey Brigg in 15 minutes on 1st January (IJP) and on 8th January another heavy southward movement was evident. A spot count showed 81 passing in 10 minutes which included a blue-phase bird (RHA. FJT). A blue-phase bird flew north off Filey on 22nd April (FJT). About 400 flew north off Hornsea on 4th May (WFC). Movement was noted during August and September off Hornsea and Spurn with 217 off Hornsea on 17th, and 160 off Spurn on 19th as maxima. 300 were in rafts on the sea off Filey on 18th November and 184 passed north on same date (RHA. FJT). One flew west over New Ellerby, 6 miles from the coast, on 8th June (WFC). Two flew west near Guisborough on 10th June and one was seen sitting at a nearby site on the 18th. Three were circling Roseberry Topping on 24th June (DSS).

27. **Gannet** *Sula bassana*

Detailed observations on the Bempton colony by Miss Joan Fairhurst and H. O. Bunce were continued. The first birds were noted at the ledges on 9th February. 32 chicks presumed fledged from 43 nests and the final desertion was between 11th and 15th October. Recorded off the coastal watchpoints in every month. Peak numbers were recorded from late July to mid-September. 234 passed off Kettleness on 25th July (PAL), 200 off Hornsea on 26th and 28th August, 236 on 4th September and 319 on 18th September when 240 were seen off Spurn.

One flew up the river west of Hull at Welton Water on 9th September (DIMW). An immature found on the Ribble near Ribblehead on 2nd June died next day (per BSh). Another immature was picked up alive in Leeds on 18th July and taken to Fairburn Ings where it died two days later. A juvenile at Knotford Nook G.P. on 22nd October was seen to dive twice (DMP) and one flying north-east over Farnham G.P. (11 miles north-east of Knotford) on the same date was probably the same bird (MW).

28. **Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Hornsea Mere had birds in every month with maxima of up to 22 during January to March, 20 in November and 26 in December (DTI). About 50 flew south off Flamborough on 18th September (DIMW).

Watchers at Spurn recorded good numbers passing as this or the next species on several dates, mainly during September and October. It is a pity more of these birds are not specified; they are not difficult to separate.

There were many inland records: In the spring the species was seen from 8th April to 11th June at seven waters with up to four birds together. Autumn records were too numerous to detail with birds seen at 13 waters from 7th September to year end, but mainly during October. All records, except two flying over the river Wharfe at Wetherby, were of single birds.

29. **Shag** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

The breeding population at Flamborough-Bempton appears to be on the increase at the latter site (HOB). Filey bay attracted the largest numbers outside the breeding season with 27 on 25th November as maximum (RHA). 27 flying south off Filey Brigg on 23rd September was the largest number recorded passing anywhere off the Yorkshire coast (DEM). Spurn recorded two on 29th May and singles on three dates in October and one in November. Seen singly on six dates in October off South Gare (SCN. WN). The species is probably under-recorded.

An adult at Fairburn Ings on 13th August was the only inland record.

30. **Heron** *Ardea cinerea*

Details of the established Yorkshire heronries are lacking in recent years. 22 nests were counted near Tadcaster in April (LM). One pair bred successfully near Market Weighton and another pair near Ripon, both new localities. A pair attempted to breed at Hornsea Mere but failed due to disturbance. The species was recorded throughout the year from all over the county more numerously than in 1971. Gouthwaite Res. attracted the largest numbers, with a build up from July (when several other places had their maximum numbers) to 10 in September, 18 in October, 14 in November and 17 in December as maxima. Other July maxima were 11 at Fairburn, eight at Bretton Park, 12 at Broomhill Flash and nine at Royd Moor Res. Singles came in off the sea at Bempton on 11th June and 1st July and at Spurn on 23rd June, 8th and 9th August and 16th October.

31. **Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*

An immature bird was in the Hornsea area from 26th August to 4th October (CC. WFC. DTI. *et al.*). It spent most days on the Mere and flew off to roost on an island in a small pond near the Mere. Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

38. **Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

One at Hornsea Mere from 1st to 3rd February and from 4th November to year-end (DTI). One near Wilton (V.C. 62) on 7th June (DWW. *et al.*).

42. **Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*

One near Patrington on 30th May (AWW. RGW. WH). An adult at Spurn on 24th June and what was presumably the same bird flew north over the Humber on 26th June.

45. **Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Hornsea Mere and Leighton Res. again attracted the largest numbers (cf. 1971). Maxima at the former locality were 2,750 in January and 2,500 at 3,000 from September to December. Leighton Res. had peaks of 550 in January, 700 in February, 1400 in October, 1,100 in November and 800 in December. Eccup Res. had 1,000 on 4th September, 1,500 on 17th and 2,000 on 24th whereafter numbers fell off to year end. The 'Estuary Enquiry' counts on the north bank of the Humber from Spurn to Goole showed 4,600 on 23rd January, 2,275 on 20th February, 1,010 on 5th March, 2,835 on 17th September, 5,165 on 15th October and 2,975 on 26th March. Elsewhere, several waters held from 200 to 500 birds during the winter months with 700 at Fairburn in August and September.

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had up to 3,500 at the end of January and early February whereafter numbers dropped to about 500 at end of February. 800 on 10th September built up to 4,500 by end of October after which the population fell to 2,000 at the end of November and during December (ACh).

46. **Teal** *Anas crecca*

The Lower Derwent Floods held 250 during January and up to 400 during February after which numbers declined (HOB. AFGW). 230 at Fairburn Ings on 15th January (CW). 220 were on Lambwath Ings near Aldbrough on 17th February.

Autumn occurrences followed the usual pattern with records from many waters during September and October. Gatherings were usually less than 100 but Scaling Dam had 150 on 27th September and 200 on 9th October (DGB). Gouthwaite Res. had 200 on several dates during October with 315 on the 7th (AFGW). Birds were counted flying north over the sea off Hornsea; 119 on 15th September, 219 on 17th and 266 on 18th (WFC).

Hornsea Mere had 400 on 10th September, 250 on 26th November and 790 on 24th December (DTI). The Humber Wildfowl Refuge attracted 740 on 21st October, 640 on 5th November, numbers falling to about 100 to year end (ACh).

The 'Estuary Enquiry' counts from Spurn to Goole showed autumn maxima of 190 on 17th September, 725 on 15th October and 145 on 26th March (per DBC).

709 flew south off Spurn on 19th November and 197 on 31st December where smaller numbers passed south on several dates from September to November.

For the fourth successive year a ♂ Green-winged Teal *A.c. carolinensis* appeared at Gouthwaite Res. and stayed from 26th February to 15th April (PJC. PJS. AFGW. *et al.*).

47. **Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

Three at Low Ellers Carr on 19th March (JP) were the first reported whereafter the species was present throughout the summer and was last seen on 22nd August with a maximum of six on 16th April (RA). One ♂ at Flamborough on 25th March (FS) was the only other March bird recorded. Occurred at Wath Ings from 11th April and spasmodically until August with six on 18th and four on 30th (MT); at Denaby Ings on a few dates in April and May with three on 22nd April as maxima (GMD. MGB), and at Fairburn Ings from May to September with three as maxima – a poor year at this locality (CW. *et al.*).

Tophill Low Res. attracted a pair from 12th April into May with four on 14th May and one on 21st (DEM. SGW). Four were on Kilnsea Lagoons on 23rd April and one on 24th and 25th. A pair flew north over the sea off Hornsea on 28th May and a did the same on 26th August (WFC). One at Wilton, Nr. Middlesbrough on 20th August (WN) and one at Wintersett Res. on 9th September (PS).

48. **Blue-winged Teal** *Anas discors*

A ♂ appeared again at Fairburn Ings on 1st April and was last seen on 2nd July (CW *et al.*). This is presumably the same bird which stayed at Fairburn from mid May to mid June 1971.

49. **Gadwall** *Anas strepera*

Present throughout the year at Hornsea Mere and Fairburn Ings. Maxima at the former locality were 71 on 8th January, up to 30 in June, 50 in August with 125 on the 26th, 150 on 10th September increasing to 275 by 23rd and to month end. 250 on 7th October whereafter numbers were smaller before a build up to 175 on 18th November and about 120 to mid December with 200 on 24th. Maximum at Fairburn was 30 during late September. Small numbers up to four, occurred at 20 other waters from January to May and August to year end, mainly in the winter months. Swillington Ings attracted most birds with up to three from January to April and up to six from August to year end (JW). 19 flew north over the sea off Hornsea on 18th September (WFC).

50. **Wigeon** *Anas penelope*

Almost exactly the same status as in 1971 with V.C. 61 holding the largest numbers and numerous flocks of up to 50 birds at several waters throughout the county with occasional assemblies of up to 100; Hornsea Mere had 305 on 1st January, 450 on 21st then smaller numbers to the end of March. Four were there in mid May and up to six from 11th to 30th June. Autumn numbers increased sharply to 600 on 24th September, 580 on 28th October, 650 on 12th November and 525 at year end (DTI). The Humber Wildfowl Refuge held large numbers with up to 1,000 at the end of January and early February and an increase in the autumn to 560 on 25th September (see Hornsea above), with 770 on 1st October, 510 on 26th and up to 250 to year end (ACh). The Lower Derwent floods attracted 1,100 on 15th January and 2,325 on 12th February as maxima (HOB). Lambwath Ings near Aldbrough had 340 on 17th February and 220 on 3rd March (DTI).

110 were at Lissett on 12th March (RL), 106 at Stocks Res. on 19th July and 160 there on 23rd December.

East Coast passage off-shore occurred during September coinciding with the build up at Hornsea and the Humber Refuge, viz: 100 north off South Gare on 17th, 40 north off Scarborough on 24th and 50 north on 25th (FJT).

Spurn recorded good numbers off-shore with 221 south and 443 north on 8th January, 128 on 16th September and 58 on 17th. Regularly during October and on 19th November, 516 passed. 648 flew south on 16th December and 533 on 31st.

52. **Pintail** *Anas acuta*

Hornsea Mere had 32 on 30th September and up to 22 to 12th November as maxima (DTI). Up to 18 from October to December on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge. The Lower Derwent floods attracted 35 on 15th January and 70 on 13th February (HOB. AFGW). 26 at Tophill Low Res. on 24th December. Elsewhere, numerous waters attracted up to eight birds on several winter dates. On 31st December 12 were at Spurn, 29 were at Wintersett Res., 14 of which left to the west, and eight flew south over Knaresborough Ringing Station (MT. PS. JRM).

53. **Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*

The maxima at Hornsea Mere, where up to 50 occurred in spring, were 115 on 23rd September, 105 on 15th October and 180 on 26th November. Fairburn had the largest number in the county with 420 on 28th August. 150 at Low Ellers Carr on 31st August was the maximum there (MGI. IJI). Malham Tarn attracted 56 on 4th September and 30 to 50 up to mid-November, 28 on 12th and all had left by 2nd December.

Elsewhere, smaller numbers occurred at many places mainly in spring and autumn.

54. **Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*

A ♀ at Hornsea Mere on 19th February (DTI), a ♂ at Newmillerdam on 20th May (JAB) and a ♂ at Malham Tarn from 11th to 16th November (BSh. *et al.*).

55. **Scaup** *Aythya marila*

Spurn had birds on the Humber during January to April with 180 on 17th February the largest number for the county. Other coastal records did not reach double figures except for 38 flying north off South Gare on 20th October (SCN). Hornsea Mere attracted up to 15 at end of October and up to 18 to 17th November (DTI).

Inland record were numerous and came from 20 waters during January and from September to year-end. Low single figures usually involved but Blackmoorfoot Res. had 11 ♀ ♀ on 20th October (JED *et al.*) and Wintersett Res. had three ♀ ♀ on 28th October, increasing to seven ♀ ♀ on 1st November (PS *et al.*).

56. **Tufted Duck** *Aythya fuligula*

The breeding population continues to increase; details of 63 successful pairs from 21 waters were notified and several other pairs were present in the summer but breeding success was not proved. The vice-county distribution was as follows: V.C. 61 two pairs; V.C. 62 no details; V.C. 63 32 pairs; V.C. 64 30 pairs (not including Fairburn Ings); V.C. 65 no details.

Large concentrations were reported from many waters outside the breeding season, the principal ones being Hornsea Mere with a spring maximum of 650 in March and 1,035 on 24th September as maximum in autumn. Tophill Low Res. had 400 on 24th December and Fairburn Ings where the maximum was 349 on 15th January. Elsewhere, flocks consisted mainly of up to 100 and occasionally up to 200 birds.

57. **Pochard** *Aythya ferina*

By far the largest concentrations were at Hornsea Mere with up to 475 in January and February and after 450 on 10th September an increase to 1,455 by 24th and 1,525 by 15th October. Up to 1,200 to end of November and 800 to year-end (DTI). The maximum at Fairburn was 296 on 15th January (see also Tufted Duck). The Lower Derwent floods attracted 250 on 12th February (HOB) and 700 on the 13th (AFGW). 365 were on Malham Tarn on 30th December.

Elsewhere, the pattern of occurrence was normal, with up to 200 birds on several of the larger waters, mainly from January to March and September to year-end.

60. **Goldeneye** *Bucephala clangula*

Hornsea Mere attracted the largest numbers with 105 during January, 140 on 11th March, 355 on 19th March, 250 on 2nd April, 155 on 22nd, only three remained on the 29th and one stayed to 2nd June. One on 19th and 20th August and 19th September. 120 on 21st October was the first large influx and up to 100 remained to year-end (DTI). Tophill Low Res. had 130 on 5th February and 200 on 24th December (SGW). 101 were at South Gare on 20th October (SCN), the time of main arrival at several inland waters. Nowhere did numbers exceed 30 birds except the foregoing. A

few birds lingered late in the spring with a pair on Lindley Res. from 28th May to 5th June (PJC), a ♀ on Swinsty Res. from 9th July to 3rd August when it was joined by a second (FAW. SJB). A ♀ summered at Knotford Nook G.P. and was present from June to early September (PJC. PS. *et al.*).

61. **Long-tailed Duck** *Clangula hyemalis*

Coastal records were few with up to three at Hornsea Mere during November and December (DTI), singles off Scarborough, Filey, Kettleness and South Gare on a few dates in October and November with two flying north and three south at the latter on 13th March (DB). Three at Bridlington on 24th December (JA). Spurn had one on 22nd April, three flying north on 24th April and singles on 18th, 21st and 22nd October and one on 11th November.

Inland, a ♀ was at Knotford Nook on 24th March, a first-summer ♂ was at Lower Gorple Res. from 3rd to 7th May (JN. RH. *et al.*), two immature ♀ ♀ at Southfield Res. on 29th October and one ♀ on three dates from 18th to 26th November (AS. ML. *et al.*). One ♀ at Fairburn on 18th November.

62. **Velvet Scoter** *Melanitta fusca*

From one to five at several coastal watchpoints from January to April and August to year end with eight at Spurn on 16th October. Seven ♀ ♀ were in Sandsend Bay on 21st December and eight ♀ ♀ on 30th (DJB). One was on Hornsea Mere from 21st to 31st May (WFC).

64. **Common Scoter** *Melanitta nigra*

Spurn recorded the largest parties with maxima of 105 on 15th July, 216 on 7th August, 270 on 20th and 201 on 28th. Up to 150 occurred on several dates to mid-November. Elsewhere on the coast, numbers were small with 156 off Hornsea on 28th August (WFC) the only figure over 100.

Inland, recorded on nine dates from April to May and August to November at nine waters, low single figures only involved. A ♂ on Gouthwaite Res. on 17th June (PJC). 37 flew high to the west over Fairburn Ings on 24th September and 14 flew west over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 15th October (PTT *et al.*).

67. **Eider** *Somateria mollissima*

The Bridlington to Flamborough coastal water had up to 40 birds during January, 62 on 11th February, 52 on 22nd March and up to 30 in early May with three remaining to 10th June (RL). Filey Brigg attracted smaller numbers during January and February with up to 13 on several dates and 23 on 8th April (RHA). Singles were there on 5th August and on 28th October in which month two were at Bridlington. 11 flew south off Filey on 23rd September and 12 north on 30th (FJT). A few birds occurred off Bempton and Hornsea with seven off Reighton Gap on 29th October including two fully adult ♂ ♂, the only such reported. Nine at South Gare on 13th December (DJB).

One on Hornsea Mere from 9th to 13th February and one on Catfoss G.P. on 18th November (DTI). One ♀, the last of the 20 birds which were at Wintersett Res. in 1971 overwintered and was present from 1st January to 9th April when a flotilla of 30 yachts forced it to take wing – unintentionally! (PS. PBW. *et al.*).

69. **Red-breasted Merganser** *Mergus serrator*

Small numbers, from one to six, occurred off several coastal points from January to May and October to year end. 12 north off Filey Brigg on 14th October (FJT) and 10 on 21st October (RHA) with 27 north off South Gare on the latter date (SCN).

Inland occurrences were one at Thrybergh Res. on 10th January, one at Fairburn Ings on 23rd January, singles at Wintersett Res. on 21st May, 15th November and from 17th to 23rd December, one at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 30th July and five at Underbank Res. on four dates from 25th November to 3rd December. Two broods of two each were on Stocks Res. on 15th July.

70. **Goosander** *Mergus merganser*

The principal wintering waters were Hornsea Mere, Stocks Res., Leighton and Roundhill Res., Eccup Res. and Fairburn Ings. The maximum at Hornsea Mere was 54 on 4th March on which date 23 were at Swillington Ing, the peak count of birds which were present at that water from January to early March (JW). Other maxima

were 45 at Stocks Res. on 5th February, 46 at Leighton-Roundhill Res. on 13th February and 40 at Eccup Res. in February. Smaller numbers occurred at several other places, including rivers on many dates in the winter months, the more interesting being 25 on the Nidd at Knaresborough R. S. on 19th February and 22 at Malham Tarn on 18th March. A pair nested on the river Wensley near Leyburn.

71. **Smew** *Mergus albellus*

One ♂ at Hornsea Mere on 30th January (JESW), a *redhead* on Lockwood Beck Res. from 2nd February to 13th March (DGB. DSS). One on Hunmanby Pond on 22nd February (RL). At Almholme, a pair in December 1971 stayed on together until 19th March when the ♂ departed. The ♀ remained until 26th March (RJR. JP. *et al.*). Two at Wintersett Res. on 3rd and 4th February (PBW. JAB. GS). One ♀ at Fairburn Ings on 8th January. One ♀ at Knotford Nook G.P. from 29th January to 14th April (PS. *et al.*). One *redhead* at Chelker Res. from 5th to 15th November (PMW. *et al.*). and one at Knotford Nook G.P. from 26th to 31st December (ESS. LGD).

73. **Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*

Recorded at many inland waters at times of passage and in the winter months. Several birds passed through during January and December with 11 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 26th January, eight at Gouthwaite Res. on 14th, seven on 16th and four on 19th. In December, 19 at Chelker Res. and 10 at Gorple Res. on 23rd and 18 flying north west at Wintersett Res. on 31st.

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had 100 on 23rd January after about 60 during the beginning of the month, 150 on 22nd March, 100 on 10th May and 75 on 17th May (ACh. SGW). In autumn, 187 on 10th September, 364 on 25th September, and 317 on 2nd November with 104 on 20th December (ACh). On the Humber at Spurn, 192 on 16th January, 210 on 5th July, 200 on 12th and 14th and 220 on 17th March were maxima during early months and up to 206 from 22nd to 25th June. Birds flew east on several dates in July with 301 on 23rd and 149 on 29th. Smaller numbers flew east in August. 158 flew south offshore on 19th November and 267 on 31st December. Two pairs prospected rabbit holes near Lissett, two miles from the coast but probably did not breed (RL. HOB). Two broods of ducklings at a site on the upper Humber on 10th June (RJR).

74. **Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea*

Five flew south offshore at Spurn on 23rd July. Published with the 'escape' proviso.

75. **Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*

The species occurred at Hornsea Mere from January to early May with 15 on 21st January being the only flock over six birds. Seven were there on 3rd and 10th June and a pair with four goslings was seen on 8th June. These birds and others seen during the summer months in various parts of the county are no doubt introductions by wildfowl associations. Hornsea had 19 on 12th November and 12 at the month end (DTI. JESW). The Humber Wildfowl Refuge had seven on 7th February, nine on 10th February, five on 10th September and 19 on 5th November (ACh).

44 were at Castle Howard on 23rd October (FJT). Smaller numbers, up to 10, occurred in the autumn and winter months at several places too numerous to detail.

Amongst the summer birds were 13 flying east over Potteric Carr on 17th June (MG. IJI). 10 over Auckley on 7th June and eight over Thorne Moor on 15th June were not specifically identified but were more than likely this species.

76. **White-fronted Goose** *Anser albifrons*

Several records during January when there was an obvious influx; five adults flew south-east at Spurn on 1st, 14 were on the Humber on 3rd and 4th, two at Gouthwaite Res. on 8th, four at Seamer on 13th, three at Lockwood Beck Res. on 16th, one in from the east at Scalby on 18th, six at Hornsea Mere on 21st, 11 near Scarborough on 23rd, 13 on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 23rd and 27th with 11 on 29th when four were at Hornsea Mere. 11 at the Refuge on 30th and 14 near Lissett on same date.

Nine adults of the European race at Lissett on 5th and 12th March (RL). Eight on the Humber Refuge on 23rd December and three on the 24th (ACh).

78. **Pink-footed Goose** *Anser fabilis brachyrhynchus*

The Humber Wildfowl Refuge population peaked at 1,175 to 1,230 birds on 15th and 20th January and again on 7th and 10th February with 1,095 and 1,250. The last birds were 350 on 26th February. The first to return were 92 on 13th September, 280 by the 28th and a build-up to 1,080 by 1st October peaking at 2,080 on 30th October. After 1,100 on 13th November, 420 on 15th falling to 120 on 29th. None were present on the 3rd, 170 flying west over Crossland Hill on 21st January coincided with the decrease in the Humber population.

On the 9th and 10th December, large movements were noted at several places throughout the county. Some were not specifically identified but were no doubt this species. On the 9th, 100 high to the north-west over Adel and 150 north-east over Fairburn Ings. On the 10th, 350 south-east over Melton Wood, 100 east over Birstall. 155 south-east over Wintersett Res., 41 north-west over Wath Ings, 150 west over Barnoldswick, 150 dropped into Stocks Res., 90 east and 50 west over Yeadon, 70 west over Cookridge and 65 at Hornsea Mere. A few smaller parties were recorded on 24th December with 420 in three skeins over Wintersett Res. Some smaller parties were recorded in the winter months.

A Bean Goose *A.f. fabilis* was shot on Broomfleet Island on 29th January (ACh).

79. **Snow Goose** *Anser caerulescens*

One at Bretton Park on 11th April (RLB). One on Royd Moor Res. on 5th September (FB). One was at Harewood Lake throughout the year and visited Adel Dam and Golden Acre Park. One seen flying north west with 40 Canada Geese on 7th June over Knaresborough, then Harrogate and later on Gouthwaite Res. was no doubt the same bird.

Published with the 'escape' proviso.

80. **Brent Goose** *Branta hernicla*

Two *dark breasted* were at Bridlington on 9th January (RL) and two flew south at Spurn on same date. Seven at Kilnsea on 15th January (CEA. SMP). One on the Humber Refuge from 23rd to 25th January and two there on 1st February (ACh). One *pale breasted* was on the Humber at Spurn from 9th to 14th February. 12 *dark breasted* flew south and five flew east at Spurn on 14th October and eight flew north at South Gare on same date (GWF. SCN. WN). Eight flew south at Spurn on 15th and one stayed on the Humber from 15th October to 7th November. It was joined by six others on 18th October. One *dark breasted* was at Easington on 22nd October (JH). Four on the Humber Refuge on 8th November (ACh).

On 19th November, a day of much sea passage, 87 flew south in small parties off Spurn, seven flew south off Scarborough and 17 flew south off Bridlington. All were *dark breasted* but in addition, four flying south at Bridlington were *pale breasted* (DEM). Two flew south at Spurn on 28th November.

81. **Barnacle Goose** *Branta leucopsis*

One at Seamer G.P. from 13th to 15th January (RHA). Two near Scalby on 18th January (RHA) and two near Scarborough on 23rd January (MF) were probably the same birds.

At Spurn on 26th April, 90 came in from the north and alighted on the Humber mud where they spent some time resting before departing unseen.

One with Canada Geese at Gouthwaite Res. during February and on 5th April. One was at Gouthwaite Res. and Leighton-Roundhill Res. from February to 21st April. One at Tannery Dam, Embsay from August to December was probably an escape.

82. **Canada Goose** *Branta canadensis*

Hornsea Mere had 24 during January to April, 36 in early May with 46 staying to moult. 23 young fledged (DTI. JESW). The largest moulting flocks were 215 at Gouthwaite Res. and 130 at Scar House Res. in Upper Nidderdale, 116 at Fewston Res. and 157 at Bretton Park. Large flocks assembled for the autumn with 470 at Masham, 460 at Ripley Park, 374 at Farnham, 338 at Studley Park, 407 at Harewood Park, the same birds being involved in some cases.

Two *leucistic* birds were at Bretton Park in April and what were most likely to be the same two were in the Studley Park flock in the autumn.

84. **Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*

Large moulting assemblies occurred at Hornsea Mere and Fairburn Ings with 145 at Hornsea and 128 at Fairburn in July and August as maxima. Smaller flocks occurred elsewhere with 34 at Swillington in September, 32 at Tophill Low Res. in September and 31 at Almholme in October.

85. **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus cygnus*

Small numbers, up to 10, present at many waters during the early months with a general build-up at several places during mid-March as birds moved about before pulling out. 15 were on corn at Birkin from 12th to 19th March. Fairburn Ings had the largest numbers with 36 during February. Three were on Swinsty Res. on 11th May (GTF).

A bird summered at Wellbeck Sand Quarry in V.C. 63 and was present from March to December (PS). Another bird stayed throughout the summer at Fairburn Ings and was joined by 12 more on the 22nd October.

The first to return were on 14th October when calls were heard in thick mist over Knaresborough, five at Wath Ings on the 15th, two over Ripon on the 18th and one on the Humber Refuge on the 19th. Several records of from 10 to 18 birds, mainly in December with Swillington Ings, Stocks Res., Almholme, Wintersett Res. and flood-water at Settle attracting the most birds. The maximum at Fairburn Ings was 32 on 25th November.

86. **Bewick's Swan** *Cygnus bewickii*

The flood-water on the Lower Derwent again attracted large numberse from 10 on 15th January the flock built up to 83 by the 23rd and 188 by the 29th. 229 on 5th February and from 165 to 220 up to the 14th. 250 on 24th February and 251 (including 23 juveniles) on the 27th was the peak. Numbers declined slowly to 98 by 19th March and all had gone by the 28th when the whole area was searched (HOB. MW. AFGW JF. *et al.*).

The largest numbers elsewhere in the early months were at Birkin with from 14 to 20 birds during January and February and up to 21st March (JDP), Wintersett Res. where there were 23 on 29th February and 1st March, 17 on the Humber Refuge on 20th January and 19 at Scalby on 18th January. 20 flew south at Spurn on 27th February.

First of autumn were eight adults on Gouthwaite Res. (DGL), and two adults and two juveniles at Fairburn on 17th October, and six on the Humber Refuge on the 18th (ACh). Seven at Flamborough on the 19th (DIMW), and four at Hornsea Mere on the 21st. Four flew north-west over Elsecar Res. on 23rd October, 13 flew west over Knaresborough on same date and nine adults were at Fairburn on the 24th. Small numbers occurred at several other waters, mainly during November with 22 at Settle on 12th November, 17 at Catfoss G.P. on the 18th and 19 at Hornsea Mere on 23rd December as maxima.

91. **Buzzard** *Buteo buteo*

There were several records of single birds throughout the county and it is perhaps better to deal with them on a vice-county basis.

V.C. 61; Single birds identified only as *buzzard* sp. were at Spurn on 13th February and 3rd July, flying south-east near Sherburn on 29th August (RHA) and at Hornsea Mere on 2nd October (DTI). Birds reported as *B. buteo* were one flying north at Kirkella, near Hull on 23rd July and one at Tophill Low Res. on 11th September.

V.C. 63; Scattered records from all parts of the area. Single birds over Odgen on 1st January, near Huddersfield on 30th January, Potteric Carr on 9th April, Hardcastle Crags on 17th May, Greetland near Halifax on 5th June, over Thorne Moor on 13th July, over Wath Ings, on 13th August and 20th September, at Langsett on 21st October, Kettlethorpe on 11th December, Broomhead Moor on 29th December and near Wortley in December. Some of the birds in the eastern part of the vice-county in autumn may have been migrant birds passing through Britain.

V.C. 64; Recorded from 15 places all in the western half of the area, in all months except May and June, mainly singles but four at Gouthwaite Res. on 14th October.

V.C. 65; No details of the breeding success in the north-west of the county.

93. **Sparrow Hawk** *Accipiter nisus*
Only five records from V.C. 61 away from Spurn; one at Speeton on 14th April, one at Tibthorpe on the Wolds in *spring*, two near Market Weighton on 1st July, one at Hornsea on 21st September and one flying west over Hull on 26th September. These last two were probably immigrants as were the Spurn records; one in June, singles on seven dates from March to May and four birds on three dates in October. Elsewhere in the county, widely recorded throughout the year, mainly singly. One observer had 52 sightings in the vicinity of Settle during the year (BSh). There were very few reports of successful breeding although many such must occur.

94. **Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis*
One reported by the gamekeeper of Bramham Park which had been present from *October 1971*. It was seen by several observers in June and July 1972, was identified as an immature ♂ and stayed at least until October. It is encouraging to report the keeper's sympathetic interest in this bird. One was in the Washburn Valley from January to March (PJC. PH. *et al.*) and one flew over Pool-in-Wharfedale on 9th December (PME).

95. **Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*
On 11th March, one was watched for five minutes at Gouthwaite Res. before it drifted away to the south-east (PJC. DJS. AFGW. *et al.*). What was presumably the same bird was seen over Collingham (20 miles south-east of Gouthwaite) at 1545 hours later the same day (BH). On 12th March one was seen flying south-west over Thixendale on the Wolds (HOB. JF).

98. **Honey Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*
One flew south-west over Haw Park, Wintersett on 30th April (DJS). One was at Tophill Low Res. on 29th August (DTI. DEM). One flew high to the north-west over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 3rd September (PTT. JRM. RE. *et al.*).

99. **Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*
10 birds passed through the county in May and two in June; Spurn had four birds flying south on three dates in May and one on 8th June. One ♀ at Hornsea Mere from 7th to 12th May. One on Danby Low Moor on 22nd May, a ♀ at Fairburn Ings on 2nd May and a ♂ on the 12th. One ♀ or immature hunted over the marsh at Gouthwaite Res. for two hours on 11th June. Singles over the Kilnsea Lagoons on 7th and 26th May and 7th September. A ♂ was seen on several dates at a locality east of Doncaster.

100. **Hen Harrier** *Circus cyaneus*
Recorded singly during the winter months, January to April and October to year-end from three places in V.C. 61, four in V.C. 62, five in V.C. 63, 10 in V.C. 64 and one in V.C. 65. A pair was present throughout the summer at a locality in the west of the county.

102. **Montagu's Harrier** *Circus pygargus*
Singles flew south at Spurn on 25th and 28th May and 16th July. A ♀ seen on several dates in southern Holdeness during May and July. A ♂ was at Sleightholmedale in May.
Single *ringtails* at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 15th August and Swillington Ings on 31st August were considered to be this species but were not seen well enough for certainty.

103. **Osprey** · *Pandion haliaetus*
One at Wilton on 21st May (DWW. *et al.*), one flew west over Fairburn Ings on 2nd July (CW. *et al.*) and one flew south along the coast at Hornsea on 15th September (WFC).

104. **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*
One at Lissett on 18th July (RL), a juvenile at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 23rd and 26th July (JRM. PTT. RE. *et al.*) and one at Fairburn Ings from 7th to 10th August. The latter bird was twice seen to catch swifts.

105. **Peregrine** *Falco peregrinus*

V.C. 61; one at Cayton on 16th January (DIF) and one ♀ flew north at Hornsea on 28th August (WFC). V.C. 62; one in Farndale on 27th February (DEM). V.C. 73; one flew north over Linthwaite, near Blackmoorfoot on 23rd April (MLD. DMP), V.C. 64; one at Knotford Nook G.P. on 24th February (PJC), Foxup Moor on 20th May (MVB), Lindley Wood on 16th May (PAL), 12th, 22nd and 25th November (JAB. PJC. FAW), Malham Moor on 24th August and Settle on 11th December (BSh). No records were received from V.C. 65.

The bird which has visited Arthington Viaduct in the winter months since December 1969 was seen on 2nd January.

107. **Merlin** *Falco columbarius*

Reports of successful breeding were few – two pairs in V.C. 62, one definite and three probable in V.C. 63, and four in V.C. 64. The species was present on several moorland areas during the summer but sometimes only single birds were evident and no suggestion of breeding was seen in most cases. Away from the breeding areas occurred at many places, mainly singly, and during the winter months, with three on Thorne Moor from September to year-end.

107. **Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus*

A ♂ was at Fairburn Ings on 27th and 28th September (CW. *et al.*). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

110. **Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus*

The species is very numerous and records received indicate a good breeding season. Maxima seen together were eight at Gouthwaite Res. and seven at Leighton Res. on 8th April; these could either have been local breeders returning to the higher ground or passage birds. Maxima in autumn was at the same two places with up to eight in August. Present throughout the year at Spurn with up to 14 in one day during August, 10 during September and nine during October, with seven on 1st November.

111. **Red Grouse** *Lagopus scoticus*

Reports suggest a good 'laying' but the wet weather in May and June reduced the clutches and the autumn populations were not high.

113. **Black Grouse** *Lyrurus tetrix*

No detailed reports from the main leks. Six ♂ ♂ at Ling Gill, Horton-in-Ribblesdale on 25th March (BSh). Two ♂ ♂ at Kex Ghyll on 11th February, one ♂ near Thruscross on 1st March and a ♀ on Rocking Moor on same date (FAW).

The only record from V.C. 63 was of a pair at Yateholme near Huddersfield on 24th September (CW).

115. **Red-legged Partridge** *Alectoris rufa*

Well reported from the usual areas, most numerously from east of York.

117. **Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

Two seen on three dates at Gilling, south of Helmsley during early May (PH). One calling from corn at Bempton on 26th June (JF), one calling from barley at Lisset in 'late' June (CV), four calling from two barley fields at Burton Fleming, on the Wolds on 29th July (HOB) and two there on 6th August (LS).

Calling at four places near Hornsea in July (JESW). One heard in a barley field near Cattal, east of Knaresborough on 27th July (WHJ). One seen by the roadside at Skeffing on 21st October (PAL).

120. **Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus*

Reported mainly singly from numerous localities with the largest numbers occurring during November. Maxima were 15 at Potteric Carr on 18th November where up to six during January and February and up to seven during December (RA. *et al.*) and at least 15 at Fairburn Ings on 5th November.

Proved breeding reports are never very frequent and chicks seen with an adult on Thorne Moor is the only one received (SLJ). Several other localities had birds throughout the summer but proof of successful breeding was lacking.

121. **Spotted Crake** *Porzana porzana*
One seen at Fairburn Ings on 20th August and one at Spurn on 29th October.

125. **Corncrake** *Crex crex*
Calling birds were at Settle during June (BSh), at Thorner north-east of Leeds during June, near Kilnsey Crag, Wharfedale in early June and at Kettlesing, west of Harrogate from early June to mid-July (GKY). One was flushed from long grass at Atwick on 27th August (WFC). One was seen and later caught and ringed at South Gare, Teesmouth on 5th September (DJB).

126. **Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*
Large concentrations were at Swillington Ings with 50 on 5th August, Knotford Nook G.P. where there were up to 60 in January and February and 40 on 26th November and Hornsea Mere where the maxima were 66 on 12th February and 80 to 85 from September to year end (DTI). 73 were on the Humber Wildfowl Refuge on 27th July and 141 on 10th September (ACh). Elsewhere, common at all suitable waters with breeding reported from April to November.

127. **Coot** *Fulica atra*
Hornsea Mere attracted the most birds with spectacular numbers during December. Up to 2,370 during January, 1,500 during February and March and 500 to 850 from April to August. 1,150 on 23rd September was an increase with 820 in October, 1,040 in early November increasing to 3,880 by 26th, 4,050 by 17th December, 5,200 on 24th and 5,000 on 31st (DTI. JESW).
1,000 at Fairburn Ings on several dates during January and from August to October. 600 at Tophill Low Res. on 1st October and 1,400 on 24th December (SGW). Malham Tarn had 370 on 16th January, 560 on 12th March and 530 on 30th December. Elsewhere flocks of up to 350, but mainly 100 – 200 were reported from many of the larger waters mainly in January-February and November-December. 413 at Swillington Ings on 30th September was maximum for the water (JW).

131. **Oyster Catcher** *Haematopus ostralegus*
Southerly passage offshore was noted during July, August and September. Spurn's maxima during this period were 81 on 26th July, 351 on 14th August and 44 on 4th September. Smaller numbers passed on most other days. 145 flew south off Filey on 12th August and 217 off Hornsea on 1st September and 174 on 7th (WFC).
Large concentrations were 368 in the Tees estuary during February. The Humber mud at Spurn attracted 450 during January and 500 in February as maxima during the early months. At the year end were 552 on 15th October, 820 from 17th to 20th November and 600 on 31st December. Birds were recorded at many inland localities in most months but mainly during February-March and August-September, from one to three birds mainly involved. 170 were at Broomfleet Island in the upper Humber on 23rd July (DBC).

133. **Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus*
Cold weather at the end of January caused birds to move with large numbers counted at several places on the 30th; 1,040 flew south-south-west in 90 minutes over Melton Wood, 750 south-west over Thorne Moor, 1,300 south-west in 2 hours over Wintersett Res., and 1,620 south-west in three hours over Swillington Ings. There were several large assemblies during January and February with 900 at Knotford Nook on 15th January, 750 at Fairburn during late February, and many flocks of 200 to 500 at other places.
The first post-breeding flocks were assembled by the end of June and by the end of July there were 720 birds on Denton Moor, north of Ilkley which built up to 1,150 by 1st September. 1,500 at Ingbirchworth on 24th September and Gouthwaite Res. had 1,500 as the peak of a large assemblage during the latter half of September. Many other smaller flocks were reported mainly from the western half of the county. A cold weather movement on 24th December produced 700 flying west over Knotford Nook G.P. and 200 over Knaresborough R. S. Of 33 nests on Sutton Moor, only eight produced chicks, 19 eggs hatching from 130 laid (DH).

134. **Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*

The only records of breeding away from the coast were a pair at a gravel pit near Catterick and a pair with three fledged young at Grimwith Res. At least 10 pairs bred on Spurn Point but not all successfully.

Birds occurred inland at many places from February to November with the main passage during May and early June and again in October. Fairburn Ings had up to 25 birds during late August and September. Elsewhere, from one to five mainly involved but Wath Ings, where birds had been recorded from 2nd July to 5th October, had 11 on 29th August and 4th-5th September.

Coastal maxima were up to 60 on the beach south of Bridlington during January and early February (RL), from 60 to 100 at Spurn between 22nd and 31st August and 40 on 8th September.

135. **Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

The enquiry organised by the 'Research Committee' gave the following results:

V.C. 61; 10 pairs proved to breed, nine at gravel pits and one on a disused runway. Two sites were used for the first time.

V.C. 62; one pair bred successfully at a gravel pit.

V.C. 63; 16 pairs bred at 10 sites which comprised – five gravel pits, four spoil heaps and one sewage farm. Young seen at six of these sites.

V.C. 64; 10 pairs proved to breed at five sites and at least five others may have done so. The proved sites were two gravel pits, two spoil heaps and one sewage farm.

V.C. 65; 11 pairs proved to breed at seven sites, four of which were gravel pits and three river shingle. At least 24 young reared. Two sites were new in 1972.

To summarise the foregoing breeding records; 48 pairs bred at 33 sites; 21 gravel pits (30 pairs), seven spoil heaps (11 pairs), three river shingle sites (four pairs), and two sewage farms (three pairs).

Elsewhere, occurred at many other similar localities in small numbers mainly during the autumn. The first bird of the year was at Birkin on 19th March (RS) but the main arrival was not until early April. Maxima seen together were 22 at Fairburn Ings on 9th August (JDP) and 11 at Wath Ings on 1st September. The last birds were recorded up to mid-September with the last at Wath Ings on the 23rd. The Research Committee wish to thank the following societies and individuals for sending in details:

Beverley Naturalists' Soc., Castleford and Dist. Naturalists' Soc., Darlington and Teesside N.F.C., Leeds and District Birdwatchers' Club, Hull N.H.S., Wharfedale N.H.S., and T. S. Crosby, D. T. Ireland, J. D. Pickup, D. Proctor, R. J. Rhodes, A. Shaw, P. Smith, E. C. Sterne, G. Thrussell, J. E. S. Walker, A. J. Wallis, and J. Ward. Many others contributed through their local societies.

136. **Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

One at Fairburn Ings on 6th May flew low over the area, circled for a while, calling and left to the west (CW. *et al.*). One near South Gare, Teesmouth on 18th June (GC. SCN. WN).

139. **Grey Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola*

The 'Estuary Enquiry' counts along the north shore of the Humber from Spurn to Goole showed maxima of 12 on 23rd January, 22 on 20th February, 6 on 5th March, and 9th April, 29 on 7th May, 20 on 17th September, 255 on 15th October and 85 on 26th November.

Inland, occurred at 12 waters; one flew east at Swillington Ings on 28th January (JW) one flew south-east at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 3rd February (DWS) and one was at Fairburn in May. Elsewhere occurred, mainly singly, on 12 dates from July to November, mainly during late September with three flying west at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 20th September (MLD) and four flying north-east at Wintersett Res. on 25th (PS).

140. **Golden Plover** *Pluvialis apricaria*

On the moors of western V.C. 63, Saddleworth, Howden, Wessenden, Wessenden Head and Standage, 35 breeding pairs were counted with six birds returning to Howden Moor as early as 27th February (Dr. DWY).

Winter flocks of up to 500 birds were too numerous to list and several flocks in April comprised of birds showing characters of the Northern race. Maxima were 1,000 at Swillington Ings on 1st January (JW), 1,000 at Bubwith on 30th January (GS) and 1,000 near Overton during January (PH). 2,500 at Hangthwaite on 30th October (RA) was by far the largest flock in the county.

142. **Dotterel** *Eudromius morinellas*

10 passage birds on a moor in the north-east of the county in early May (JEK). At Spurn, two were present on 27th August, and one from 13th to 24th September was killed by flying into overhead wires on the latter date. This bird had been caught and ringed on the 14th when its weight was 83 gms and when found dead it weighed 101 gms. Another bird flew south at the 'narrow neck' on 21st September and a very late bird was present on 18th November.

143. **Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

The 'Estuary Enquiry' showed 40 on 23rd January, 114 on 20th February, 21 on 5th March, 260 on 9th April, 180 on 7th May, 280 on 17th September, 195 on 15th October and 100 on 26th November. 190 were at Teesmouth during February and 224 were counted on 16th April.

Maxima at Spurn were 90 on 29th January, 106 on 20th February, 300 on 14th March, 300 on 14th April, 116 on 7th May, 23 on 6th June, 80 on 30th July, 320 on 27th August, 277 on 30th September, 220 on 28th October, 100 during early November and 100 on 28th December.

Inland, occurred at Fairburn Ings where there were two on 6th May, three on 31st May and single birds on several dates in August. Two flew west at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 21st August (MLD), one at Wath Ings on 27th August (PBW) and three flew west at Wintersett Res. on 12th September (PS. PBW).

145. **Snipe** *Capella gallinago*

The largest concentrations were in V.C. 63 with 100 at Potterick Carr from January to July with 200 on 14th January (IJI). 160 were at Adwick-le-Street S.F. on 16th March and 130 on 11th November and a *schizochroic* bird was present on 25th September (RA). 200 at Almholme on 26th March (JP) and up to 100 regularly at Wath Ings during late October and early November with 120 on 15th October as maximum (MT. RW).

At Gouthwaite Res. in V.C. 64, low-water levels attracted up to 70 on 4th September, increasing to 140 by the 27th and during October with 159 on 9th November (AFGW. *et al.*). Smaller numbers recorded from many other areas mainly during September and October. A bird ringed in southern Finland on 18th August 1970 was shot at Patrington on 3rd February 1972.

147. **Jack Snipe** *Lymnocryptes minima*

Recorded, mainly singly, from many places throughout the county. The last of spring were two at Durkar Sand Quarry on 15th April (PS) and the first of autumn was one at Hornsea Mere on 23rd and 25th August (DTI). No others were seen until one at Beverley S.F. on 20th September – a more normal date (DEM). Two at Wath Ings on 24th September, one at Broomfleet Island on same date, two at Spurn on 28th, one at Flamborough on 29th and singles at Wintersett Res. and Adwick-le-Street S.F. on 30th marked the first main arrival. Maxima were at Wath Ings with eight on 27th and 28th October, 20 on 4th November (MT) and six on the 5th (PBW).

148. **Woodcock** *Scolopax rusticola*

One came in off the sea at Hornsea on 17th September (WFC). At Spurn, from one to three were present from 13th October to 21st November with five on the 22nd October and 18th November and 10 on the 19th November. Four were seen coming in off the sea on 22nd October.

150. **Curlew** *Numenius arquata*

The wintering flock at Gouthwaite Res. had 44 birds during January and February, 48 in October, 34 in November and 58 in December (AFGW. *et al.*). 22 were at Settle on 3rd December (BSh).

The 'Estuary Enquiry' showed large numbers along the north shore of the Humber – 1,170 on 23rd January, 365 on 20th February, 510 on 5th March, 855 on 9th April, 240 on 7th May, 515 on 17th September, 3,780 on 15th October and 2,045 on 26th November (per DBC).

151. **Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

One to five birds passed regularly at Spurn from 1st April to 23rd May with 30 on 13th May and 39 on 16th. A few passed into early June. One on 2nd July, then daily from 8th July to 16th September with 96 on 22nd July, 146 on 5th August and 152 on 7th as maxima, otherwise single or low double figures. This passage was reflected to a lesser degree elsewhere on the coast with 22 at Hornsea on 24th June, the maximum in spring. 24 at Bempton on 7th August and 23 at Hornsea Mere on 10th September when there were 19 at Brandesburton.

Inland, the 'Maybird' occurred from April to September at many localities, mainly singly flying over, and mainly during May and in July-August. Maxima were four over Thorne Moor on 20th May and five on 28th July, six over Melton Wood on 14th August and nine west at Wintersett Res. on 9th September (PS).

154. **Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa*

On the coast, recorded in small numbers on three dates from 2nd April to 1st May and on 11 dates from 12th August to 12th November, mainly in the Humber area, with three at Cherry Cobb Sands on 24th June (BSP). The maxima were six at Brough Haven on 11th September (SGW) and six at Broomfleet Island on 2nd November (ACh).

Inland, two were on Newton Ings from 27th to 29th April and singles on 4th and 8th June and 6th and 31st July (JDP *et al.*). Two were at Settle on 16th April (BSh). One flew over Swillington Ings on 28th April and one on 14th May (JW). One at Wath Ings on 17th August (MT. RW. PBW), one at Birkin on 2nd September (SG), one at Knostrop from 9th to 16th September and one at Wintersett Res. on 22nd September (PS).

155. **Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

Maxima on the north Humber shore from Spurn to Goole were 100 on 23rd January, 48 on 20th February, 119 on 5th March, 70 on 9th April, 180 on 7th May, 72 on 17th September, 83 on 15th October and 227 on 26th November.

118 flew south off Hornsea on 1st May, 65 on 31st August and 54 on 17th September (WFC). Inland, a pair were feeding in a water meadow on the Lower Derwent on 30th April (GS). One flew over Blackmoorfoot Res. on 7th April (DWS). A flock of 19 flew east over Wath Ings on 10th September (JH), one flew north over Fairburn Ings on same date and one flew west on 17th September.

156. **Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus*

Occurred in small numbers at many localities during the spring and autumn passage periods with some birds staying through the winter. The main passage was during July-August when the maxima were 11 on Wath Ings on 20th August and eight on 27th and on Thorne Moor where there were 15 on 2nd July and from 10 to 14 up to 11th August with nine up to 19th August and five on 16th September (SLJ. CW. ML).

157. **Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Recorded singly in spring from Swillington Ings on 21st April and 6th May, Fairburn Ings on three dates in May, Flamborough on 9th May and Spurn on 19th and 27th May.

More records in autumn, mainly singly from July to September, at Tophill Low Res., Hornsea, Beverley S.F., Spurn, Thorne Moor, Stanley S.F., Durkar Sand Quarry, Wath Ings (where there was one on 18th June), Fairburn Ings, Birkin, Settle, Fewston Res., Knotford Nook G.P., Knostrop and Stanley S.F.

159. **Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*

The first was one at Potteric Carr on 31st March (IJI) with the next at Castley and Marley S.F. on the 5th (LM. WG). More arrived from the 9th but the main arrival was not until the last week of April. Late birds were at Gouthwaite Res. on 13th October and Farnham on 14th with one at Gouthwaite on 4th November (PJC).

161. **Redshank** *Tringa totanus*

Inland wintering birds were again numerous with records during January-February and November-December from 18 localities with 20 at Settle on 12th December (BSh), and 10 on the River Don near Thorne on 26th November, otherwise from one to five birds. 3,300 were counted for the 'Estuary Enquiry' on 9th April (per DBC). 350 were in the Tees Estuary on 13th February. Southerly passage off Spurn occurred on many dates in autumn, with 368 on 17th August as the maximum.

162. **Spotted Redshank** *Tringa erythropus*
Single birds occurred on seven dates in the Humber area during April to early June and from one to four birds on several dates during July to mid October. Two were at Skeffling on 23rd January.
Inland, occurred at 20 localities, mainly singly but up to four at Wath Ings, from late June to September with odd birds in October and one at Fairburn Ings in November. the main passage being during early September.

165. **Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*
Spring records were few; singles near Selby on 19th and 29th March (RFD) and Fairburn on 25th March were the first with birds at only seven other localities during April and May. Recorded at Hornsea Mere on 13th June and Gouthwaite Res. on 15th. The autumn passage started in July with birds at many localities throughout the county until early October, the main passage occurring during August. Maxima were eight at Wath Ings on 13th August and seven on 21st; seven at Hornsea Mere on 12/13 August. Seven at Stocks Res. on 1st September. Three were at Brough on the Upper Humber on 26th November (per DBC).

169. **Knot** *Calidris canutus*
The 'Estuary Enquiry' on the north shore of the Humber from Spurn to Goole showed large numbers:– 9,900 on 23rd January, 8,450 on 20th February, 5,450 on 5th March, 665 on 9th April, 190 on 17th September, 1500 on 15th October and 5,575 on 26th November (per DBC). 800 were at Saltburn on 10th December (DGB). Southwards passage offshore at Spurn was noted on several dates from July to November with 531 on 6th August as maximum.
Inland, occurred at Farnham G.P. on 20-21 May (RE) and Knaresborough Ringing Station on 30th July. At Blackmoorfoot Res. four flew west on 17th August, two flew north on 16th September, one was caught and ringed on 21st September and one present on 22nd. One at Tophill Low Res. on 16th September. One at Ingbirchworth Res. on 17th September, one flew west over Swillington Ings on 22nd August and two at Knostrop S.F. on 9th September. Singles at Fairburn Ings and Chelker Res. on 17th October.

170. **Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*
Filey Brigg had 84 on 8th January (RHA) with 30 on 22nd April (FJT) the last of spring. Six on 6th August were the first of autumn with 37 on 23rd September, 64 on 28th October and 82 on 16th December as maxima. 30 were at Sewerby on 2nd January, 20 on 8th April and 30 on 19th November. 50 were on the harbour wall at Bridlington on 19th January. 20 at South Gare on 28th March (DSS), 32 at Kettleness on 28th October (PAL) and smaller numbers at several other coastal localities during the same period.

171. **Little Stint** *Calidris minuta*
The only spring records were two on Hornsea beach and two on the Mere on 1st May (WFC. DTI). In the autumn, recorded on 10 dates in August at Spurn, Hornsea, Fairburn Ings and Almholme, mainly singly but with four at Almholme on 29th as maximum. Recorded throughout September at the foregoing places together with Brough Salting, Gouthwaite Res., Hay-a-Park G.P., Seamer G.P., Stocks Res., Birkin, Altofts, Wintersett Res., Wath Ings and Knostrop S.F. Most birds were seen during the first two weeks with evidence of a second smaller movement during the last week. Up to three birds occurred at several places with seven to ten on Kilnsea Lagoon, near Spurn from 5th to 8th September and up to seven at Fairburn Ings during mid-month. One at Hornsea Mere from 1st to 6th October and one at Wath Ings on 14th October (MT *et al.*).

173. **Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*
One at Fairburn Ings from 12th to 17th August and one at Hornsea Mere on 31st (WFC) with two on 1st September (DTI).

176. **Pectoral Sandpiper** *Calidris melanotus*
17th July, was an interesting date for one to appear at Birkin when it was watched at length by RFD, SG. *et al.* and again on the 18th. One at Hornsea Mere from 28th September to 7th October (DTI. J and AD).

178. **Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*

The 'Estuary Enquiry' on the north bank of the Humber from Spurn to Goole showed some high figures; 26,365 on 23rd January, 16,275 on 20th February, 13,555 on 5th March, 22,560 on 9th April, 7,180 on 7th May, 6,810 on 17th September, 18,835 on 15th October and 16,145 on 26th November (per DBC). 57,000 were in the Tees Estuary on 13th February (TBR) and up to 1,000 were there during July.

Inland occurrences were more numerous than usual with a strong passage during late September, October and November. Many waters recorded up to 30 birds during this period plus the following places which had maxima as shown; 44 at Wath Ings on 27th October and 63 on 12th November (PBW. RW. *et al.*), 56 at Gouthwaite Res. on 24th September with 63 on the 25th and 77 on 2nd October (AFGW. *et al.*), 69 at Fairburn Ings on 1st October, 46 at Stocks Res. on 30th September (BSh), and 36 at Swillington on 19th November (JW). Up to 200 were on the Lower Derwent floods during January and up to 150 during February and early March (HOB. GS. *et al.*).

179. **Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*

In contrast to last year, 1972 produced many records. All except odd ones at Spurn in June and July (see below) were during late August and up to the third week of September as follows: V.C. 61; Kilnsea Lagoons on several dates from 17th August to 12th September with 14 on 31st August, 35 on 2nd September and 37 on 9th as maxima, Sunk Island where there were seven on 9th September and 43 on 10th, Tophill Low Res. with 15 on 29th August, 19 on 5th September and six on 11th. Smaller numbers, up to four, occurred at Hornsea, Broomfleet Island, Brough Salting and Spurn Point, at which latter place singles occurred on 9th June and on 15th, 26th and 30th July. V.C. 62; one at Seamer G.P. from 29th August to 4th September (IJP. *et al.*). V.C. 63; at Wath Ings, occurred on 17 dates from 25th August to 24th September with six on 27-28th August, seven on 29th, five on 12th September and four on 16th as maxima, (RW. GC. PBW. *et al.*). One at Almholme on 2nd September (JP). V.C. 64; Fairburn Ings had one on 27th August and up to three from 28th August to 6th September (JDP. CW. *et al.*). Six at Stocks Res. on 1st September (BSh), two at Birkin on 2nd (RS), three at Knostrop S.F. on 2nd and six at Masham G.P. on the 9th (AFGW. FS. *et al.*).

181. **Sanderling** *Calidris alba*

424 on Coatham Sands on 16th April (SCN) was the maximum for the county. 500 in the Tees Estuary during July were not all in Yorkshire (TBR). Bridlington Beach attracted 50 on 9th January and up to 75 in February with 60 on 11th March. Spurn had birds in every month with maxima of 31 on 24th March, 44 on 30th May, 56 on 4th June, 53 on 22nd July, and 73 on 23rd, 91 on 8th August, 84 on 23rd September and 66 on 24th October. Inland occurrences were; three flying west at Swillington Ings on 29th April were very probably the three which were at Fairburn Ings on the same date. Two flew west at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th May (MLD) and occurred singly at Fairburn Ings on 30th May (SG), Wath Ings on 19th July (MT), Wakefield S.F. on 4th August (PS), Wintersett Res. on 29th August (PS) and Swinsty Res. on 22nd-23rd August (FAW). 15 were at Trent Falls on the Upper Humber on 7th October (FG).

184. **Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

10 were on Coatham Marsh on 16th January with 26 on 12th February and up to 12 during April (SCN). Singles at Spurn on 25th April, at Brough on 10th May and Hornsea Mere on 22nd May were the only other spring records. Occurred in autumn from 9th July to end of October with most records during the first half of September, at several places inland and on the coast. Maxima were 17 on Cherry Cobb Sands on 16th September, six at Stocks Res. on 2nd September and eight at Wath Ings on 3rd (PBW. RW).

187. **Grey Phalarope** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

A good year for this species with singles on 11 dates and two birds on one date at coastal localities and three dates (two birds) at inland sites as follows; at Spurn on 21st and 27th October, Scarborough on 23rd October (FJT), found dead at Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 5th November (JW), Filey Brigg on 11th November (RHA. BC), Bridlington on 19th (DEM), two at Filey on 20th (FS), at Scarborough on 29th (MF. RHA) and on 5th December (CC), Scalby Mills on 7th December (CC) and at South Gare on 15th November and 29th December (DJB. DGB. SAB).

Inland, one at Midhope Res. on 29th and 30th October (RW. *et al.*) and at Fairburn Ings where one stayed from 20th to 24th October (JDP. CW. *et al.*).

**Wilson's Phalarope** *Phalaropus tricolor*
One in winter plumage at Fairburn Ings on 7th September (JDP. CW. *et al.*). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

189. **Stone Curlew** *Burhinus oedicnemus*
One at Durkar Sand Quarries on 5th September (CDP. NHSB).

193. **Arctic Skua** *Stercorarius parasiticus*
Three flying north off Hornsea on 4th May were the only ones in spring except for a skua sp. at Spurn on 28th May which was thought to be this species.
Autumn passage occurred from 22nd June to end of November with most birds from mid-August to mid-September. Maxima at Spurn were 151 on 17th August, 243 on 18th, 106 on 26th, 212 on 4th September and 350 on the 9th. 87 off Hornsea on 4th September, 84 on 6th, 152 on 9th, 163 on 17th and 82 on 18th (WFC). Smaller numbers seen on many dates at the other coastal watch points.
The only inland occurrence was one over Knaresborough Ringing Station on 5th August (PTT).

194. **Great Skua** *Stercorarius skua*
The only spring records were one off Hornsea on 4th May (WFC) and one off Spurn on 10th June. Recorded from 8th July at Spurn and at most other sea watch points up to mid October with two at Spurn on 11th November. Main passage was during mid September with 11 flying north at South Gare on the 17th and 13 off Hornsea on same date and eight next day (WFC). Elsewhere numbers were small and did not exceed six birds on any one date.

195. **Pomarine Skua** *Stercorarius pomarinus*
Singles off Hornsea on 20th, 27th and 30th August and 4th September (WFC) and two off Kilnsea on 4th September (DIMW). Three off Hornsea on 17th and two on 18th September (WFC). Spurn had singles on 23rd, 24th and 28th September, two on 1st October with singles on 15th and 21st and two on 12th November. One off Kettleness on 22nd July, and one off Redcar on 7th August with three on the 8th. Three at South Gare on 17th September and six there on 14th and 20th October with one on the 24th (SCN. WN. GWF). 20 flew south in one flock off South Gare on 11th October and five flew north on 21st (DJB).

196. **Long-tailed Skua** *Stercorarius longicaudus*
An adult over the Humber at Spurn on 16th July and one south on 4th September. An immature flew south at Kettleness on 23rd July (MEG. PAL). An adult off Hornsea on 20th August and one there from 28th to 30th August had white outer primaries in its left wing (WFC).

198. **Great Black-backed Gull** *Larus marinus*
The pattern of occurrences was almost exactly as in 1971 with minor differences in actual totals. Coastal maxima were 530 at Spurn during March, 750 during August and 400 during September and October. 3,500 were in the Tees Estuary on 11th August. Inland, the species was numerous in the winter months with 400 at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 14th January (JED), 150 at Knotford Nook on 16th January (PS), 1,400 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd January, 200 at Ardsley Res. on 16th January (GC. CDP) and 150 at Wintersett Res. on 6th February (PS). At the year end, 300 were at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 10th December (JED), 500 at Ardsley Res. on 2nd December (GC. CDP), and 200 at Swillington Ings on 5th November (JW). From 50 to 100 birds occurred at a few other waters during the same periods and smaller numbers at many places.

199. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus fuscus*
Passage through the south and west of the county occurred in strength from March to mid-May and again during August, September and October. 600 counted on Swinsty Res. on 2nd March (PJC). Up to 250 seen at several waters in spring and in autumn with about 3,000 roosting at Ardsley Res. on 28th August (GC).

Birds on the east coast were comparatively scarce with no numbers exceeding 10 at any locality except Spurn where 57 was the maximum passing in April, 14 in May, 29 in June and 32 in July.

Birds showing characters of the Scandinavian race *L.f. fuscus* were recorded at Spurn on five dates in April with seven on 2nd as maximum, two on 3rd May, one on 17th June, and five dates in August with four on the 9th and five on the 17th. One at Almholme on 6th April (RJR).

200. **Herring Gull** *Larus argentatus*

Inland, 1,000 flew north-east over Almholme at dusk on 6th February (RJR). The roost at Blackmoorfoot Res. held maxima of 1,500 on 14th January and 600 on 10th December (JED). 3,000 roosting on Ardsley Res. from 25th November to 2nd December (CDP. JSW. SNS). Other roosts and feeding areas held up to 500 birds during the winter months.

Breeding on house roofs in Scarborough is increasing particularly in North Marine Drive and Aberdeen Walk. The attendant noise, particularly in the early morning has resulted in the shooting of breeding birds from roof tops with permission from the local authority. Man is too intolerant.

201. **Common Gull** *Larus canus*

Passage at Spurn during April peaked on the 2nd when 1,700 flew south and 900 flew north. Movement occurred on several other dates during April and it is interesting to note that the majority of birds flying north were adult and those flying south were immature. Sports fields and similar areas of mown grass, such as Harrogate Stray attracted good numbers, up to 250, at several localities during the winter months. 1,000 roosted at Ardsley Res. on 2nd December (CDP) – an exceptional number for the vice-county. 2,500 were in the Tees Estuary on 11th August (MAB). A chick ringed in Estonia on 30th May 1971 was found dead on Filey Brigg on 4th February 1972.

202. **Glaucous Gull** *Larus hyperboreus*

Recorded on the coast from Spurn, Hornsea, Filey, Bridlington and Scarborough on several dates during January to 23rd May and from 27th October to year end, mainly immature and singly except for two in Scarborough Harbour on 11th November (one adult and one first-winter) and two adults flying south off Spurn on 29th October and 1st November.

Inland, an immature was at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 22nd January and 28-29th March (JED. *et al.*), an immature at Gouthwaite Res. on 19th February (AFGW), one at Wath Ings on 9th and 30th April (HC. *et al.*), a sub-adult at Swillington Ings on 27-28th April and 1st May (JW), an adult at Fairburn Ings on 5th November, one at Chelker Res. on 18th November (MVB. PMW) and one at Otley on 10th December (MGC).

203. **Iceland Gull** *Larus glaucoides*

One first-year bird at Bridlington on 22nd January (RL), a second-year at Hornsea Mere on 14-15th April (DTI. TWU) and a first-year flying north at Spurn on 2nd April.

Inland, single immatures occurred at Fairburn Ings from 2nd to 15th January, 13th February and 2nd March. A sub-adult at Lindley Res. on 1st March (PJC). Immatures at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 20th February (DP. SP. TD), from 19th to 22nd April (JED. *et al.*), and on 16th November (JED).

205. **Mediterranean Gull** *Larus melanocephalus*

An adult flew south at Spurn on 13th August and a first-year bird was over the Humber there on 1st October. A second-year bird was on the sea off Hornsea on 26th August (WFC).

207. **Little Gull** *Larus minutus*

At Spurn recorded in every month from May to October. Maxima were 16 on 2nd September, 20 on 17th and 18 on 18th, otherwise from one to seven birds on 40 dates during the period, mainly in September and October. Large numbers elsewhere were 32 flying north off Hornsea on 3rd September and 10 on the 4th with eight and nine on 15-16th respectively (WFC), 29 flying south off Kettleness on 14th October and 86 on the 15th (PAL). Recorded in January and February and from April to November at several coastal watch points, mainly singly in low single figures, the majority being during August to October, with nine at Bridlington on 5th November.

Inland, the species was recorded singly from Thorne Moor on 20th May (RJR. *et al.*). Fairburn Ings on 13th May, 31st July and 28th August, with two on 7th and 13th August and Elsecar Res. on 17th-18th August (PM. MT). Wintersett Res. had two from 12th to 15th August (PBW), two on 29th August, one on 31st (PS), one-two on 3rd September (KB). Tophill Low Res. had two on 9th August, one on the 13th and one on the 28th (SGW). Immatures were mainly involved at the inland waters.

208. **Black-headed Gull** *Larus ridibundus*

Large numbers reported during the winter months at roosts and on their way to and from such. The largest numbers were 9,000 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd January and 13,500 at Ardsley Res. on 25th November. From 1,000 to 3,000 otherwise recorded. The Thorne Moor breeding colony held 1,500 birds on 14th May which was considered to be a decrease on previous years (ML). One ringed as a chick in Denmark in 1966 was found dead at Knostrop in April.

A *leucistic* bird, first seen in 1966 was again present at Teesmouth from 16th to 18th September (DGB).

209. **Sabine's Gull** *Larus sabini*

An adult off Hornsea on 10th September (DTI), an adult off Kilnsea on 12th (MC), an immature off Aldbrough on 26th (DIMW), an immature moving south off Scarborough on 12th October (RHA) and at Spurn, single adults flew north on 23rd September and 17th October.

211. **Kittiwake** *Rissa tridactyla*

Large movements off the coast in all months but mainly in the winter are difficult to interpret. Some move north and some south and such latter at Filey are often not recorded at Spurn for example, the birds evidently not continuing down the coast. Off Kettleness on 25th July 3,000 flew north and 1,170 flew south. Such movements are probably associated with food supply.

Several were reported from inland localities; one at Ellerton Ings in the Lower Derwent on 12th February (JOB. JF), an adult at Lindley Res. on 3rd March and an immature at Knotford Nook G.P. on 7th (PJC). Four roosted with other gulls at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 28th March (JED *et al.*). One found dead at Stocks Res. on 10th April (RS. RFD). Single adults were at Gouthwaite Res. on 29th January and 3rd April (PJC. DJS. AFGW). Single adults at Sandbeck Park Lake (RJR) and Wintersett Res. (PS) on 13th May. One found dead at Farnham G.P. on 25th June (MWh). An adult at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th November (TS. PB) and one on 9th and 10th November at Wintersett Res. (PBW). On 11th November 14 were over Angram Res. in Upper Nidderdale (FS. AFGW).

212. **Black Tern** *Chlidonias niger*

One at Hornsea Mere on 6th May was the forerunner of a light spring passage through the county. V.C. 61 had in addition, one at Bempton on 10th May, three at Hornsea Mere on 15th and one on the 22nd, three flying south off Hornsea on 28th and one at Brandesburton G.P. on 31st. Spurn had three on 20th May, four on 27th and one on 21st June. The only inland spring record was in V.C. 64, – four at Fairburn on 20th May. More passed in autumn with one to two birds at Spurn from 26th July to 18th September with six on 16th August and eight on 21st. Hornsea Mere had one to three birds on several dates from 8th August to 10th September. One at Filey Brigg on 1st October. Inland, occurred at nine waters in V.C. 63 from 29th June to 30th September, with four at Wintersett Res. on 28th August as maximum. V.C. 64 had singles at Fairburn Ings on 20th July, 9th, 13th and 20th August. One at Knotford Nook G.P. on 15th July.

216. **Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

One at Coatham Sand on 7th August (AJWh) and one flying north at Kettleness on 29th August (PAL). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

217/218. **Common/Arctic Tern** *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

The largest coastal movements were recorded off Spurn during July to September with 1,350 on 9th August and 1,000 on 15th and 16th mainly passing south in the evenings. Up to 200 to 400 continued to pass during the rest of August with 160 on 7th September, the last large count. 41 on 5th October, eight on 12th and two to three

on 15th to 18th with one on 4th November. 1,500 were in the Tees Estuary on 11th August. Occurred inland at many waters both in spring and autumn. 22 at Wintersett Res. on 28th October was the inland maximum. Singles were at Gouthwaite Res. and Thirsk as late as 5th November (AFGW. DW). The majority of those specifically identified inland were Common Terns. An Arctic Tern was at Swinsty Res. on 23rd April (FAW) and one at Gouthwaite Res. on 26th May (PJC).

219. **Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*
One over the sea at Hornsea on 31st May (WFC) and one at Hornsea Mere on 28th August (DTI) were the only records.

222. **Little Tern** *Sterna albifrons*
Singles at Spurn on 2nd May and Hornsea on 4th with two at South Gare on the latter date. A few, up to three, were at Spurn during the rest of May, and early and late June with eight on 24th June. Autumn occurrences were more numerous with 38 on the 19th July, 14 on 20th and 13 on 21st. 22 on 7th August was maximum for that month with two on 1st September and one on the 19th. Six flew south at Hornsea on 20th August, nine on 5th September and seven on 12th. Odd birds occurred at three other coastal watch points during the same periods.
Two adults were at Fairburn Ings on 22nd July and one was at Newmillerdam from 20th to 24th August (JAB).

223. **Sandwich Tern** *Sterna sandvicencis*
Three at Hornsea Mere on 18th March were the first and early (DTI) with two at Bridlington on 4th April (RL) and Spurn on the 5th. Passage in May off Spurn reached a peak of 300 birds on 28th. In autumn, many passed south from mid-July to early September with 1,000 on 11th, 12th, 29th and 30th August. One flying south at South Gare on 29th October was the last (GWF. *et al.*).
Inland, occurred at Fairburn Ings where one flew east on 29th April and two stayed all day on 15th July. Two were at Wintersett Res. on 16th July (CEA) and three were at Wath Ings on 23rd July (MT. *et al.*).

226. **Little Auk** *Alle alle*
15 at Bridlington on 30th January and 40 scattered on the sea in Bridlington South Bay on 5th February (RL). Two flew north offshore at Spurn on 18th October and one came in with a flock of Starlings on same date. Two flew north on 21st October and another flew over the Point with a flock of Starlings. Two north on 22nd October and one on 1st November. Nine flew north off Kettleness on 28th October and one on 29th (PAL).

227. **Guillemot** *Uria aalge*
One found on a school playing field at Adwick-le-Street on 29th August. It was uninjured and in good physical condition and was later released on the sea at Scarborough (per KHP). The story, with a photograph appeared in the *Doncaster Evening Post.*

229. **Black Guillemot** *Cepphus grylle*
One flew north off Spurn on 22nd October. Singles were in Scarborough South Bay and Cornelian Bay, south of Scarborough on 18th November (RHA. HES. IJP). One off Filey Brigg on 20th and 26th November and on 2nd December (FS. DEM. RHA. *et al.*).

232. **Stock Dove** *Columba oenas*
The largest number reported was a flock of 100 near Blubberhouses on 23rd January which remained into February and 190 were counted on the 20th (LGD. ESS). Other notable flocks were 65 on Outlane Moor, Huddersfield on 15th January (JED) and 60 at Walton Hall on 24th October (JSW).

234. **Wood Pigeon** *Columba palumbus*
Several flocks of up to 500 were reported from many parts of the county during the winter months. At Spurn, several parties of from 100 to 150 birds passed south during April to July and on 25th November one flock comprising of 1,200 birds was present. 1,000 were at Wath Ings on 19th November, 1000 flew south-west over Swillington on 26th November (JW), and 2,000 flew south over Nostell Priory on 3rd December.

235. **Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia turtur*

One was at Wilton, nr. Middlesbrough on 26th March (TF, SCN). Three at Broxa and two at Beck Hole, south-west of Scarborough on 16th April were the first sign of arrivals. One at Potteric Carr on 28th April was the next with a few birds in early May before the main arrival during the second week of May when records came from several areas. Heaviest passage occurred at Spurn during late May and early June with from 10 to 102 birds passing daily between 25th May and 9th June.

Some birds lingered into early October with two at Swillington Ings on the 7th, the last reported.

**Collared Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto*

The situation is one of continued increase and spread into new areas. Recorded in Upper Nidderdale at Gouthwaite in March and over the watershed at Leighton Res. in September. Large assemblies occurred at Selby, Byram Park, and most commonly in the south-east of the county with 200 estimated at Hornsea during August (WFC), 175 to 200 at a roost at Kirk Ella during the autumn (SGW) and 67 on Broomfleet Island on 20th November (ACh), the latter being a new locality.

237. **Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus*

The earliest was at Brantingham, west of Hull on 9th April, the next being at Melton Wood, west of Doncaster on the 11th. One at Skelding, near Pateley Bridge on the 16th was the only other record until the last week of the month when more birds arrived; the main influx coming during the first week of May. 19 were counted on Thorne Moor on 20th May. Single juveniles at Wintersett Res. on 13th September (PS), Secker Wood on the 23rd (CDP) and Thorne Moor on the 24th (ML) were the last.

241. **Barn Owl** *Tyto alba*

Widely reported from all parts of the county with successful breeding at several places. Most sightings were of single birds and many of these in car headlights. At least three birds were found dead on roadsides.

246. **Little Owl** *Athene noctua*

An encouraging number of breeding records received from all areas of the county.

248. **Long-eared Owl** *Asio otus*

Recorded most commonly from the south of the county in V.C. 63, with breeding from three localities. One pair bred in the north of V.C. 62.

Very few birds were seen elsewhere and only three were reported from V.C. 64. In V.C. 61, one at Flamborough on 19th September and singly at Spurn on 11th April, 1st June, 11th, 12th and 21st August, 17th October, 5th and 18th November with two on 20th.

249. **Short-eared Owl** *Asio flammeus*

Several breeding records from the high ground of the western half of the county and from the north-east. Elsewhere, widely reported during the autumn and winter months, hunting on open ground, mainly singly but up to three together at a few localities.

252. **Nightjar** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

V.C. 61; one pair present at Wheldrake but no breeding proved, present on Skipwith Common but no numbers available, one at Hornsea on 30th August. V.C. 62; one singing at Broxa on 17th and 19th July (DEM). V.C. 63; one singing near Mirfield on 15th June (DS), four singing on Thorne Moor on 22nd August. A 'census' at this locality in June showed 20 to 21 birds spread over the moor and an estimated 15 breeding pairs (ML. SLJ). One sang during mid-June in Grenoside Woods (JIM) and four were near Finningley in June (RA. BMB). V.C. 64; two pairs bred successfully on Sawley High Moor (MRS. HMJ), one sang near Swinsty Res. on 22nd May but not subsequently (FAW), one heard in Middleton Woods, Ilkley on 12th July (MSA) and one flushed at Fairburn Ings on 20th May was heard singing from a large willow tree later the same evening. V.C. 65; no records.

255. **Swift** *Apus apus*

30th April-1st May was clearly the arrival period with records from many areas. Four were at Harrogate S.F. on 30th April and 16 on 1st May (JH), six were at Hornsea Mere on 30th with 25 on 1st May (JESW), singles at Scarborough and Thorne Moor on 30th, and three at Ilkley. Six at Wintersett Res. and 16 at Fairburn Ings on 1st May and singles from several other localities on same date. 1,600 were hawking over Fairburn Ings on 25th June.

700 flying south-west over Thorne Moor on 9th August were in advance of the main withdrawal period during the third week of the month. A few birds were seen up to mid-September with one at Fairburn Ings on the 30th the last of the 'stragglers'. One flying east near Ossett on 30th October was exceptionally late and unlikely to have been of British origin (GW).

256. **Alpine Swift** *Apus melba*

One flew south at Spurn on 2nd July during a large movement of *A. apus*. Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

258. **Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

Several breeding records received and a general increase noted in all areas. Some indication of the status and distribution is given by the fact that Kingfishers were seen in at least 140 different localities during the year throughout most of the county, (not including V.C. 65).

261. **Hoopoe** *Upupo epops*

One at Welton Water on 10th May (TJP), one at Goodmanham on the Wolds on 16th May (EHW. TJW) and one at Carnaby on 17th May (RL).

262. **Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis*

Results of the enquiry into this species show proved and probable breeding pairs as follows:– V.C. 61, eight; V.C. 62, nine; V.C. 63, 27; V.C. 64, 15; V.C. 65, five. Many other sightings of single birds were reported and no doubt the figures above are on the low side. The habitats recorded show a marked preference for open 'park type' woodland, with broad leaved woodland next. Conifer was not favoured.

263. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus major*

The woodpecker enquiry gave the following breeding figures:– V.C. 61, 20; V.C. 62, eight; V.C. 63, 42; V.C. 64, 25; V.C. 65, six. These figures are obviously low and the many sightings of single birds would suggest a much higher breeding density. Broad-leaved woodland was the most favoured habitat, with open 'park type' woodland next. Conifer, as with the last species, was not favoured.

During late September, an influx occurred on the east coast and 12 were at Flamborough scattered over the headland on fences etc. on the 24th (HOB). One on the cliff top at Bempton on the 25th was no doubt an immigrant. An obvious influx in the Hornsea area during November and one trapped during this period showed measurements of the Northern race *D.m. major* (JESW). One in Redcar fox covert on 18th September was also considered to belong to this race (CDK). Spurn recorded the influx from 4th September onwards and 14 birds were caught, all belonging to the Northern race.

264. **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus minor*

V.C. 61; one at Fulford on 15th March and one at Garrowby Hill in April. V.C. 62; no records. V.C. 63; one pair bred in Bretton Park (PS. GC) and singles seen at Almholme and Shipley in January, Newmillerdam and Thorne Moor in February and Potteric Carr in July. V.C. 64; reported from 12 localities, mainly singly, but two together at two places. No record of breeding. V.C. 65; no records.

265. **Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

One at Spurn on 7th May was the only spring record. One at Hornsea Mere from 30th August to 1st September (DTI), and singles at Flamborough on 3rd September and 20-21st September (HOB. DIMW). Spurn had one to three birds from 30th August to 8th September, then one on 10th, two on 14th and one to two during the 17th-25th. One was present from 28th September to 5th October.

270. **Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata*
One was trapped and ringed near Tunstall on the Holderness coast on 11th June (AWW). This was a new species for the county and the record was accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

272. **Skylark** *Alauda arvensis*
2,000 flew south over Kirk Ella, west of Hull on 31st January during snow cover (SGW). Some evidence of movements during mid-October when birds were recorded moving north-west at Swillington Ings and Knaresborough Ringing Station with 53, 100 and 20 on 15th, 16th and 17th respectively over Swillington and 124 on 15th and 170 on 16th over K.R.S. The largest number moving at Spurn where passage was in progress from 30th September to mid November, was 775 on 28th October.

273. **Shorelark** *Eremophila alpestris*
Very few were recorded in the early months. One to six at Bempton from 18th to 25th April, one on 8th July and three on 16th May (CE. DTI). One at Spurn on 28th April and one found dead on 1st May. Recorded from 2nd October to year end at several coastal localities with maxima of 12 at Flamborough on 12th October (HOB), 17 on Redcar jetty in October (DJB), 15 on Bran Sands, Teesmouth on 20th November (JMB) with 18 at South Gare on the 29th. Between 40 and 50 on Bran Sands during the period 26th to 31st December (DGB. GST).

274. **Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*
The first of spring were two at Castle Howard on 1st April (LS), with singles at Gisburn and Settle on the 2nd and birds appearing at several places from 4th, the main arrival taking place during the third week of the month. 70,000 roosted at Brotherton Ings (Fairburn) on 20th August (CW. *et al.*) and 20,000 at Old Denaby on 13th September. Several smaller and temporary roosts formed at other localities during August and September.
Spurn recorded birds passing south on many dates during May to July with a daily maximum of about 1,200. Southerly passage in autumn started at the end of July and continued on several dates to the end of October. Daily maxima were 1,650 on 23rd August and 1,945 on the 24th, 1,570 on 11th September and 1,200 on the 12th. Late birds were one at Fairburn on 5th November, three juveniles at Settle on 9th (BSh) and one at Ripon on 21st.

276. **House Martin** *Delichon urbica*
One at Lowthorpe, east of Great Driffield on 26th March was exceptionally early (RL). The next were five at Ben Rhydding on 5th April, singles at Low Ellers Carr on the 7th and Nostell Priory on the 9th. A few were seen during the next few days but the main influx did not start until the 16th. In autumn, many lingered until mid-October with a few to the month-end and odd ones into early November; one at Birkenshaw, south-west of Leeds on the 4th being the only one inland and 12 at Hornsea Mere on the 2nd with 10 on the 6th (DTI. JESW).

277. **Sand Martin** *Riparia riparia*
The first was at Hornsea Mere on 23rd March (DTI) and the next at Swillington Ings on the 31st (JW). A few were recorded from the 1st April, the main arrival being during the second week.
October Sand Martins are scarce in Yorkshire and one at Fairburn Ings on the 1st, at Wintersett Res. on the 2nd and at Knaresborough Ringing Station on the 8th were the only ones reported inland. Three were at Hornsea Mere on the 29th.

278. **Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*
A ♂ was singing near Market Weighton on 28th May (AWW) and a ♀ was seen on the 31st and on 8th June (SGW). Two ♀ ♀ flew south at Spurn on 3rd June and one was at Hornsea on the 6th (JESW).

279. **Raven** *Corvus corax*
Several reports mainly of single birds in the winter months from the north-west hill country with successful breeding reported from three sites in V.C. 64. No details of the V.C. 65 breeding pairs.

280/281. **Carrion/Hooded Crow** *Corvus corone/cornix*

80 to 100 roosted at Adel Dam during March and April and 150 were at Melton Wood on 13th July (DC. JC). 40 more at Swillington Ings during October and November (JW), 60 in one field at Melton Wood on 1st October and 30 at Cusworth on the 21st (DC. JC). The roost in heather near Ogden Res. held up to 100 during the winter months (DJS). 250 were on Thorne Moor on 19th November, 100 at Newmiller dam on 20th February and 400 there on 3rd December, an exceptional gathering (JSW. CDP. PS).

On 28th June, one was seen at a Sand Martin colony and appeared to be trying to catch juvenile birds at the entrances of the nest holes (MVB).

Hooded Crows *C.c. cornix* were recorded as usual on the coast during January to April, with one at Spurn on 2nd May and one at Cloughton near Scarborough on the 7th, and from mid-October to year-end with up to nine at Spurn in April as maxima.

Inland occurrences were fewer than usual with one at West Melton on 14th March (HOB), one at Wintersett on 25th October (PS), singles at Denaby Ings on 26th October and 3rd December (KJH. HC) and one roosting with the nominate race on Thorne Moore on 27th December (ML).

284. **Magpie** *Pica pica*

Large numbers observed at roosts were 39 at Adel Dam on 4th March and 33 on the 24th. The Ogden Res. roost of late 1971 continued into 1972 with 85 present in the early months and up to 70 at the year-end (DJS).

286. **Jay** *Garrulus glandarius*

At Knaresborough Ringing Station on 14th and 15th October, a weekend of heavy Redwing and Brambling influx, five and four Jays respectively flew north-east. Coastal origin was suspected but subsequent records from elsewhere in the county did not show any movements on the coast or indeed anywhere inland. Much activity of small passerines was in progress at the same time and the period was obviously one of much movement involving many species.

A bird ringed at Denaby Ings on 30th October 1966 was recovered at Southowram, Halifax on 12th October, 1972, a distance of 43 kms. west-north-west (BMB).

289. **Blue Tit** *Parus caeruleus*

Spurn recorded movement through the peninsula on 18 days in September and on four days in October and November. 33 on one day was the September maximum. Several 'bright' birds were at Flamborough on 24th September, 'several' on 1st and 4th October and 'many' on 7th October (HOB). Birds were also noted at South Gare during this period and between seven and 20 were present from 23rd September to 14th October (SCN).

290. **Coal Tit** *Parus ater*

Spurn had a very tired bird on 1st October, three on the 2nd and 3rd with singles on 4th, 5th, 8th, 14th and 24th. The ones on the 1st, 8th, 14th and 24th belonged to the type race *P.a. ater* and the other probably did also.

14 at Newmillerdam on 3rd January was the largest flock reported (PS).

294. **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus*

Many reports of flocks in excess of 20 birds during the autumn and winter months, the maxima being 50 at Lindley Res. on 15th September (PJC) and 50 at Queen Mary's Dubbs, near Ripon on 30th October. (DMcA).

295. **Bearded Tit** *Panurus biarmicus*

At Low Ellers Carr, the birds which occurred up to the end of 1971, were recorded up to 19th March with six on 19th February and three on the last date (MGB. GMD). Three were on Broomfleet Island on 29th January and birds were calling there on 11th September (ACh). Two flew south at Hornsea on 13th September (WFC).

A large influx occurred in October, as in 1971, and coastal records were 20 at Broomfleet Island on the 9th with smaller fluctuating numbers through to the 18th November (ACh). Three at Hornsea Mere on 28th October (DTI), four trapped there on 4th November which had been ringed at Spurn on the 3rd and 10 present from 5th November to year end (DTI). Spurn had a party of seven on 3rd November, six of

which were caught and ringed. The seven were still present early on the 4th, but only two remained later in the day (see above for retraps at Hornsea Mere) and two on the 5th. One was at Kilnsea on 30th December.

On the 15th October, seven were seen coming in off the sea at Kettleness at 0945 hours (PAL).

Inland, 15 had returned to Low Ellers Carr on 5th November and some were present to year end (HEB. *et al.*). A ♂ ringed there on 21st February 1972 was retrapped on 26th November 1972. (RA. BMB).

296. **Nuthatch** *Sitta europaea*

The only record for V.C. 61 was one at Hornsea Mere on 18th May (DTI). The species is thinly distributed in the remainder of the county with most records coming from V.C. 64.

298. **Tree Creeper** *Certhia familiaris*

One caught at Spurn on 24th October was thought to belong to the type race *C.f. familiaris*. A Continental Coal Tit was caught on the same day.

301. **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus viscivorus*

A remarkable number of large flocks was reported: 26 at Wilston, near Redcar on 12th August (SCN); 50 at Low Ellers Carr on 16th August (JP) and 40 on 24th September (IJI); 60 at Ogden Beck, Low Bradfield on 24th September (DH) and 60 at Wintersett Res. on 21st October (JSW); 67 were at Gouthwaite Res. on 16th September and 50 at Roundhill Res. on 27th (PJC); 40 were on a playing field near Leeds on 9th September.

302. **Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

A roost in conifers on Sawley High Moor peaked at 3,150 on 5th April with 800 on the 27th (JF. HMJ. MRS). A few flocks of up to 500 birds were reported in March, some birds lingering to the end of April and early May with eight at Digley Res. on the 1st May, one at Pannal, near Harrogate on the 6th (GTF), one at Flamborough on the 11th and one at Wilton on the 28th. Spurn had up to six regularly to mid-May, with one on the 28-29th and one on 10th and 24th June.

One was at Spurn on 22nd to 25th July and up to six from 27th to 31st August. Other August birds were three at Gouthwaite Res. on the 2nd, one at Seamer G.P. on 28th and two at Hornsea Mere on same date.

Almost daily at Spurn in September with 10 on the 4th and 12 on the 19th. Recorded from several places inland during September mainly singly with 40 at Gouthwaite Res. on the 2nd, an exceptionally early date for a large flock.

This vanguard was to herald the most spectacular influx of Fieldfares witnessed in the county. The first arrivals were from the 12th with a fairly heavy movement on the 14-15th weekend with 2,200 passing over Swinsty Res. in two hours on the 15th and several parties of up to 900 birds in the south of the county. This movement was to be completely overshadowed by the great influx on the 21st and 22nd. During this weekend, mainly on the 21st, spectacular flocks passed westward over most of the county but strangely, were not seen by coastal observers. Such large numbers could not have passed undetected and it is likely that they arrived during the preceding few days and built up a few miles inland before moving on. It is unlikely that they arrived on the 21st on a very narrow front, unseen between the manned watchpoints as they were passing along the length of the county from Settle in the north-west to the Doncaster area in the south and furthermore the movement was in progress from dawn till dusk. At Gouthwaite Res. where PJC watched from 0800 hours to 1700 hours an estimated 16,000 passed west and at Knaresborough Ringing Station where watchers manned the observation tower from dawn till dusk, 23,880 were counted passing over on a two mile front, the last flock of 500 passing just on dusk. 9,000 were counted from the tower on the 22nd and other places recorded passage at reduced strength on that date. A smaller influx occurred in early November and in contrast, the largest number was seen on the coast at Spurn when 13,000 came in off the sea on the 4th and continued westward. 3,000 were counted over Knaresborough R.S. on the 5th, 1,486 over Swillington, and 2,360 over Thorne Moor on the same date. Large numbers were not in evidence during the rest of the year at most places which suggested that the majority had passed straight through the county, probably into Ireland.

303. **Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelus*

An influx on the coast was noted during the first week of October with 80 at Spurn on the 3rd, 40 at Flamborough on the 7th (DIMW), 'hundreds' in the Tees Estuary during the first week, 56 on South Gare on the 2nd and 200 on the 11th (SCN). 38 flew west over Knaresborough Ringing Station on the 14th with 640 Redwing. 100 were at Spurn on 4th November, a day of much Fieldfare arrival.

304. **Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

Flocks of up to 100 to 150 were reported from several areas during mid-March. The last birds were at Swillington and Brandsby on the 20th April, Ben Rhydding on 21st and at Walton Hall where one was singing on the 30th.

First of autumn were at Spurn on 17th September and four at Flamborough on 19th when birds were calling at night over Barnsley. 24th September was the first date of main arrival with records coming from several places. 600 came in off the sea at Redcar on 11th October but the largest movement inland was on the 14th-15th weekend when many passed westward; 640 over Knaresborough Ringing Station, 180 at Malham Tarn and 'considerable numbers' moving over the Washburn Valley. During the next few days Redwings were everywhere in large numbers.

307. **Ring Ousel** *Turdus torquatus*

One was seen on Bilsdale Moor in the south Cleveland Hills on the exceptional date of 20th February (RCP). The next were on Kettlesing Moor, west of Harrogate on 17th March, Hardcastle Craggs and Burley Moor on the 19th, with 3 on Digley Moor on the 21st. Most moorland areas had birds by the end of March. The only lowland record, apart from coastal migrants, was one ♂ on Thorne Moor on 8th May (CW). Small numbers were on the coast at Flamborough and Spurn during late September and October with three at the latter place on 4th November – a day of heavy thrush influx.

308. **Blackbird** *Turdus merula*

An obvious influx on the east coast during the first half of October when a few inland localities had increases. A spectacular 'arrival' took place on 19th November when 1,000 were at Spurn and at Scarborough where RHA was concentrating primarily on the sea passage, 'Blackbirds were falling like leaves from a full overcast sky, in rain with a gale force south wind . . . 30 dropped, then 40 . . . the harbour area was covered with them'.

A roost at Newmillerdam increased from 40 in November to several hundreds by mid-December (CDP) and 656 were counted entering a roost at Farnley Park on 10th December.

311. **Wheatear** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

The first was at Skell Gill, Upper Nidderdale on 18th April (DJS) with singles at Roundhill Res. and Burley Moor on the 19th (PJC. FAW). Several areas had birds from the 22nd to the month-end.

Passage at Spurn during April with 50 on the 4th, 90 on the 8th and 40 on the 9th, again in early May with 21 on the 2nd, and smaller numbers to early June. Autumn passage maxima there were 40 on 29th August and 50 on 4th September and a few continued to pass throughout October with one on 5th November. Birds were at a few inland sites up to mid-October with one on Sutton Moor on the 26th (DH) and at other coastal localities up to the 29th. Several birds passing at inland sites during early May were considered to belong to the Greenland race *O.o. leucorrhoa.*

317. **Stonechat** *Saxicola torquata*

Spurn had singles on a few dates during January to April with six on 26th February. One to six birds respectively from 18th September to year-end. Other coastal localities had similar occurrences with six at Flamborough on 7th October as maximum.

Nine at Tophill Low Res. on 27th February (SGW) was the county's maximum. Several other inland sites recorded birds during January to March and late September to year-end, most records being during late October and early November. Thorne Moor had one to four birds from 1st October to year-end (ML. SLJ), two to three at Deer Hill Res. from 14th October to 26th November (DP. *et al.*), one to four at Almholme from end of October to mid December (JP. *et al.*) and one to two at several other localities during the same periods.

A few were recorded in May but the only record of breeding came from Yateholme where a male was feeding a juvenile in July (AR).

318. **Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra*
First, was one at Spurn on 11th April, the next being in Wessenden Valley on the 15th. The main arrival was during the first week of May when birds were reported throughout the county. Inland localities were deserted by mid-September except for odd birds on passage – one at Potteric Carr on 3rd September and one at Swillington Ings on 1st October.
Coastal passage continued up to mid-October with singles at Spurn and Flamborough on the 12th and one at the latter site on the 15th.

320. **Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*
Several observers commented on the apparent scarcity of this species during the last year or two. Two at Atwick, north of Hornsea on 2nd April were the first (WFC) with one at Bempton on the 6th and 8th and at Spurn from the 8th to 12th. The first report inland was a female at Adel on 10th April, the next being at Digley Res. on the 17th and Lindley Res. on the 19th. A few were seen inland up to the third week of September, the last being at Swillington Ings on the 24th (JW). Coastal passage was in evidence up to mid-October with one at Flamborough on the 12th and 15th and at Spurn on the 27th the last reported.

321. **Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*
Spurn had birds from 21st March to 25th April with eight on 9th April as maximum. Two on 1st May and singles on five dates to 23rd. One on 19th September was the first of autumn with one to four present for most of October.
Odd birds occurred elsewhere on the coast mainly during September and October. A pair bred successfully on the cliffs at Flamborough and fledged four young (RJP. AMG). The only inland record was a male at Gouthwaite Res. on 20th April (SJB. PME).

322. **Nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*
Up to three singing ♂ ♂ on Thorne Moor from 3rd May to 2nd July (ML. *et al.*). One sang at Brocodale from 14th to 17th May (RFD. JDP). Two at the breeding locality near Doncaster on 3rd and 20th May was the lowest number recorded for nearly 20 years (JP).

324. **Bluethroat** *Lusairia svecica*
A ♂ at Spurn on 16th and 18th May and one on 14th September.

325. **Robin** *Erithacus rubecula*
A small influx on the coast during early October when birds were 'everywhere' at Flamborough on the 4th (HOB) and at Spurn there were 23 on the 2nd and 50 on the 12th with small numbers at South Gare on the 7th (SCN).

326. **Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*
One caught and ringed at Hornsea on 22nd November was a new record for the county (G.Bird, JES AND Mrs. C. F. Walker).
Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee. This species, which has extended its range north-westwards in Europe during the last few years is now resident in small numbers in southern England.

327. **Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella naevia*
Widespread reports throughout the county with the first near Barnsley on 14th April.

333. **Reed Warbler** *Aerocephalus scirpaceus*
The first was at Hornsea Mere on 2nd May (DTI) with the next on the 7th where JESW states that the males were late in arriving but the females were on time. The last were singles at Hornsea Mere and Tophill Low Res. on 15th October (JESW. SGW).
Passage birds occurred singly at Flamborough on 20th and 22nd September and 7th October (DIMW) and at Spurn on 13 dates from 28th August to 13th October – at least five individuals being involved. Singles were trapped in Redcar Fox Covert on 12th and 15th October (GWF).

334. **Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris*

One was caught and ringed at Spurn on 13th September. At Flamborough on 10th September and on 20th-21st, DIMW saw single birds which he considered to be this species.

Addition to 1963 report: One caught and ringed at Flamborough on 21st September (AFGW. MRS).

337. **Sedge Warbler** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

One at Hornsea Mere on 14th April (DTI) and one at Swillington on 20th April (JW) were well ahead of the main arrival during the first few days of May. The last inland bird was on Thorne Moor on 23rd September with the last at Hornsea Mere on 3rd October (JESW).

340. **Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*

At Hornsea Mere, one on 27th August, three on the 28th, one from 29th to 31st, three on 1st September and one on the 2nd (DTI) when one was also at Flamborough (AFGW. FS).

One was at the Warren at Spurn from 4th to 9th September with a second bird on the 6th. One was in Hall Garth Park, Hornsea on 5th-6th September (WFC) and one at the Mere on the 9th (DTI).

343. **Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla*

One at a bird table in Summerbridge, Nidderdale on 31st March ate pieces of crisp fat. One sang at Adel Dam on 1st April and birds were recorded at several places during the first week of the month, but the main arrival was during the second week. Birds lingered at inland sites up to early October with one at Knaresborough Ringing Station on the 28th. On the coast a few passed in early November with one to three at Spurn up to the 6th and four at Flamborough on the 5th (DIMW) when two were at Hornsea Mere (JESW). One was at Scarborough on 14th November (MF).

Several birds wintered and were recorded at Kirk Ella in January, Hull in January, Riddlesden in February, near Leeds in February and March, Knotford Nook in February, Ilkley in January and February and Ben Phydding in February. All were males except the Kirk Ella and Knotford Nook birds.

344. **Barred Warbler** *Sylvia nisoria*

Occurred at Spurn from 28th August when two were seen with five on the 29th and one on the 30th. One to two from the 1st to 5th September with six on the 4th, one to three from 13th to 30th with five on the 19th. In October, one on the 2nd, two on 3rd and one on 12th-13th and 21st. Singles on 1st and 5th November were the first ever recorded in that month at Spurn. One was near Easington on the 14th September, and at Flamborough, DIMW recorded singles on 17th-18th, 21st and 28th September with five on the 20th and two on the 22nd. One was present on the 8th October.

346. **Garden Warbler** *Sylvia borin*

Passage on the coast in autumn continued up to late October and early November with one at Hornsea on 30th October, one at Spurn on 31st and on 2nd, 5th and 6th November.

347. **Whitethroat** *Sylvia communis*

One at Harrogate S.F. (North) on 20th April was the first and early, the next being near Doncaster on the 26th. The main arrival was during the first week of May. Many observers state that the population is still well below normal.

Most inland localities were clear of birds by the end of the third week of September, the last being at Thorne Moor on 1st October (ML). On the coast, one at Spurn on 4th October and a late bird at Hornsea on the 30th (JESW).

348. **Lesser Whitethroat** *Sylvia curruca*

Singles at Market Weighton and Burley-in-Wharfedale on 23rd April were the first. Several areas had birds during the first week of May and several observers again considered it to be more numerous than Whitethroat. In autumn, recorded up to the third week of September at inland localities, coastal passage continuing to the month-end with singles at Spurn on 7th and 19th October and one at South Gare on 21st (DJB).

353. **Rufous Bush Robin** *Cercotrichas galactotes*
One was at Flamborough Head on 5th and 6th October (K. and Mrs. E. M. Allsopp, D. J. Britton, A. J. Wallis). Accepted by the 'BB' Rarities Committee. See *'British Birds'* 66. p. 346. A new record for the county.

354. **Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus*
The first influx was clearly on 3rd April when records came from several places. More areas had their first birds during the next few days and the species was well distributed by mid-month.
In woodland near Market Weighton, SGW made regular spring counts with the following results; two on 12th April, 26 on 16th, 100 on 29th, 300 on 30th and 60 on 7th May. Passage birds were obviously involved.
Most birds had departed by the third week of September, two at Spurn on 6th October and one on the 12th being the last.

356. **Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita*
One at Hornsea Mere on 14th-15th March was the earliest (DTI) with one at Farnham on the 19th and at several other localities between the 24th and 26th.
Several were recorded at coastal localities up to the end of October. One was caught and ringed at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 5th November (MLD) and a *phylloscopus* at Wintersett Res. on 10th December was thought to be this species (RAM).

357. **Wood Warbler** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*
One singing at Lindley Res. on 14th April (PJC) was early and well ahead of the next at Spa Gill Wood, near Ripon on the 28th (HMJ. MRS). Several passage birds sang in May at places where no breeding occurs. Spurn had single birds on 5th, 20th, 22nd and 27th August and one on the 15th September which remained until 21st October. This bird apart from being very late had a greywish wash on the upper parts, especially the crown, hind neck and wing coverts. The yellow of the upper breast was also rather pale giving the bird a very pale appearance overall.

358. **Bonelli's Warbler** *Phylloscopus bonelli*
One trapped at Wilton, Redcar on 20th August (SCN. WN) and one at Spurn on 29th-30th August (JC. *et al.*). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

360. **Yellow-browed Warbler** *Phylloscopus inornatus*
One at Kilnsea on 28th September was trapped on the 29th. One at Spurn on 30th September, one on 7th October and one from 21st to 25th October. Singles at Flamborough on 30th September, 14th and 15th October (DIMW). One in Redcar Fox Covert on 4th October (SCN. WIB) and one at South Gare from 6th to 8th October (SCN. DJB. *et al.*).

364. **Goldcrest** *Regulus regulus*
Some large concentrations were recorded at inland localities, mainly during late September and October. 50 at Black Carr Plantation, Cantley on 21st September, 100 at Lindley Res. on the 28th (PJC), 40 at Bretton Park on 15th October and 50 at Yateholme on 5th November were the maxima.
Several coastal stations had large numbers during October. Spurn had 200 on 3rd October, 300 on 12th and 13th, 250 on the 14th and double figures up to the 26th. This influx was noted on a smaller scale in the Teesmouth area and at Flamborough mainly during mid October. Spurn caught and ringed 754 birds mainly during October.

365. **Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*
One was *shot* at Driffield on 5th January (per RSPB). One was singing at Spurn on 8th and 9th May. Several coastal records in October with two at South Gare on 3rd-4th and one on the 5th (SCN. JMB. DJB), one at Kettleness on 14th (PAL), singles at Flamborough on 1st and 4th (HOB), one at Hornsea on 3rd (GB), one at Spurn on the 1st, seven on the 2nd, eight on the 3rd, three on the 4th and singles on 5th, 6th, 11th and 14th, 11 were caught and ringed at Spurn, one at South Gare and one at Hornsea.
One was at Flamborough on 26th November (DIMW).

366. **Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata*

Singles at Knaresborough and Horbury, near Wakefield on 3rd May were the first. Birds appeared at several other places between the 7th and the 10th.

Inland areas were clear of birds after 25th September on which date four were at Leighton Res. and one was at Hetchell, north-east of Leeds.

Coastal passage continued to end of September and into early October with one at Spurn on 12th-13th and one at Flamborough on the 15th.

368. **Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

The first was in Bolton Abbey Woods on 26th April (FAW) with the next in Spa Gill Wood, near Ripon and Seamer Road Mere, Scarborough on the 30th (RTS. CC).

Coastal passage recorded at Spurn, Flamborough and Hornsea at end of August and early September and again in mid-September when up to 30 were at Spurn, 25 at Flamborough and 15 at Hornsea. One passage bird was at Tophill Low Res. on the 17th (SGW).

370. **Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula parva*

One at Spurn on 29th August, one at Hornsea on 31st (WFC), one at Flamborough on 21st September (DIMW), three at Spurn on 24th September and two on 25th.

In October, one at Flamborough on the 1st (AFGW), one at Spurn on 2nd, two on 3rd and one on 17th. One at South Gare on the 3rd (DJB).

373. **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Spring passage occurred on the coast with records coming from Spurn during late March and early April, the peak being on the 2nd and 7th when 208 and 422 flew north respectively. Some southerly movement occurred during this period and 109 passed on the 6th and 101 on the 7th. 50 passed south at Bempton on the 7th and 50 north on the 26th. At Kirk Ella, west of Hull 110 flew north on 13th April.

Autumn passage at Spurn started in early September and continued through to early November. The peak period was during the third week of September and 2,900 passed on the 21st and 935 on the 30th. Movement was noted elsewhere on the coast during the same period.

Reports of passage inland were 120 at Stocks Res. on 25th March (FAW), 250 at Leighton Res. on 8th April (PJC) and 160 were at Ben Rhydding on 19th April (MVB). Smaller numbers were reported elsewhere. The largest winter concentrations were 100 at Harrogate S.F. (N) on 21st January and 150 at Otley S.F. in November. One at Knotford Nook G.P. on 2nd April had a white body and tail with flecks of brown on the mantle and flanks, brown primaries and secondaries and orange bill and legs (PS).

376. **Tree Pipit** *Anthus pratensis*

Recorded at several places during the period 16th to 19th April but not well distributed until the 7th May when Spurn had six birds, the peak spring number there after four on the 6th.

Autumn passage was light, mainly during September but only very few birds involved. The last was at Spurn on 4th October.

378. **Red-throated Pipit** *Anthus cervinus*

One caught and ringed at Spurn on the 21st September was the first for the observatory and the second county record, the first being at Flamborough on 10th May, 1970 (JF. HOB).

379. **Rock Pipit** *Anthus spinoletta*

Spurn recorded southward passage in autumn with 14 on 30th September, 14 on 7th October and 13 on the 29th as maxima. 22 feeding in Jackson's Bay, Scarborough on 26th August (IJP).

Inland occurrences were fairly numerous; one at Almholme on 30th January (GMD), singles at Wintersett Res. on 30th September, 1st and 20th October with two on 3rd October (PBW. PS), singles at Blackmoorfoot Res. on 2nd and 21st October (JED. *et al.*), one at Potteric Carr on 11th November (RA), singles at Fairburn Ings on 18th March, 13th April, 3rd September and 18th November, one at Knotford Nook on 28th October (PJC) and two at Gouthwaite Res. on 4th November (PJC).

Birds showing characters of the Scandinavian Rock Pipit *A.s. littoralis* were, one at Spurn on 10th April and two on the 13th and one at Flamborough on 11th October (DIMW).

Birds showing characters of the Water Pipit *A.s. spinoletta* were at Broomhill on 16th March (MT. JH) and Spurn on 13th, 22nd-23rd April and 3rd October.

380. **Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*

The largest gatherings were 200 at Knostrop S.F. in February, 105 at Ben Rhydding S.F. in March with smaller numbers, up to 50, at several sewage farms. Birds gathering at Knaresborough S.F. during September before going off to roost numbered 195 on the 15th, 274 on 16th, 454 on 18th, 169 on 19th, 111 on 21st and 120 on 22nd. Other roost counts were 400 at Sandal Beat on 11th July and several smaller ones of up to 50 birds. 35 roosted on girders at Ilkley Railway Station in February (LGD).

Records of birds showing the characters of the White Wagtail *M.a. alba* were too numerous to detail. Most records were during April and early May with two in August-September. Those observers not completely familiar with plumage stages of *M.a. yarellii* should use caution when identifying 'White' wagtails, especially in autumn when first-year female Pieds look very pale indeed.

381. **Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

Reports still show the species to be numerous in every suitable locality. Nine at Scalby Beck, Scarborough on 28th July was the maximum seen together (IJP). Recorded at Spurn on a few dates in March and early April and during September and October, mainly singles, but up to six on one date in September and mainly flying south.

382. **Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla flava*

The first was at Marley S.F. on 4th-5th April (MES) with birds at Broomfleet Island, in the Humber, Wintersett Res., Settle and Fairburn on the 9th. The general arrival was not until the third week of April.

Birds had deserted most inland localities by the third week of September, the last being one at Gouthwaite Res. on 30th September, one at Knaresborough Ringing Station on 5th October, South Gare on the 6th October and a very late bird at Ledston Ings, near Fairburn on 11th November (RS).

Birds showing characters of the Blue-headed Wagtail *M.f. flava* were seen at five localities; Spurn had one on 6th May, two on 29th August and one on the 30th. Singles at Hornsea on 29th April, Fairburn Ings on 13th May and 2nd July, Farnham G.P. on 30th July and Harrogate S.F. (S) on 27th August.

383. **Waxwing** *Bombycilla garrulus*

Small numbers were reported from many localities, covering most of the county during January to March and October to December. There was a small arrival on the coast in November and many inland areas had an influx during that month. A few parties of up to 20 birds were reported but smaller flocks were usual. 26 at Harrogate in late February was the largest number in the early months. One was at Pool Bank during the third weeks of April and a late bird was at Bingley on 7th May.

384. **Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius excubitor*

Recorded from 18 localities, coastal and inland during January to April, one at Scalby Mills, near Scarborough on 30th April being the last (CC), and from 21 localities during September to year-end, one at Redcar Fox Covert on 16th September being the first (GWF). October and November were the months with most records. Reports were mainly of single birds, two together on Thorne Moor in December being the only inland record of more than one. Spurn had four on 7th October and two on the 8th with three on the 14th.

386. **Woodchat Shrike** *Lanius senator*

One near Tunstall, north of Withernsea on 6th and 7th May (AWW). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

388. **Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio*

Very few records with Spurn and Teesmouth being the only places to have birds. One ♀ at South Gare on 6th May (DGB) and one ♂ at Spurn on 22nd May. One in Redcar Fox Covert on 16th September (WN), immatures at Spurn on 19th-20th and 25th September and 8th, 17th and 18th October.

389. **Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

10,000 were on the peninsula at Spurn on 19th October and 8,000 on 19th November. 1,000 were seen flying in over the sea on 13th October, 746 on the 22nd and 1,100 on the 27th. On 14th and 21st October, at Knaresborough Ringing Station 1,370 and 1,000 birds respectively, flew north-west during heavy Redwing and Fieldfare movements and were no doubt of continental origin.

Large assemblies at roosts were reported from V.C. 63 with 250,000 at Elsecar Res. on 24th September (GC), 250,000 at Sprotborough Flash on 26th November (GMD. MGB) and 200,000 on the Wentworth Estate on 31st December (DH). One million were estimated on Thorne Moor on 5th March and half a million during October to December (ML. SLJ).

On 20th November, off Filey Brigg a Herring Gull attempted to swallow a dead Starling which it had picked from the sea (FJT).

391. **Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

V.C. 61; Singles at Spurn on 23rd September and 4th November, two near Market Weighton on 19th March with singles on 30th April and 1st June and one at Kirk Ella on 23rd March (SGW). One at Hornsea Mere on 11th November (DTI). V.C. 62; no records. V.C. 63; a juvenile was caught and ringed at Melton Wood on 27th August (DC. JC). V.C. 64; Reported from eight widely scattered localities. Studley Park having the largest party – 10 birds on 7th January (GBR. *et al.*). V.C. 65; Not reported.

392. **Greenfinch** *Carduelis chloris*

Several observers report an apparent decrease in numbers with large flocks being scarce. Feeding flocks of 100 and 150 were reported in the autumn from Knostrop and Adel Dam respectively. 200 were at a roost at Potteric Carr on 8th January (IJI), 100 at Melton Wood on 17th February, 200 on 2nd March and 300 on 18th November (DC. JC); A very large roost on Thorne Moor held 400 birds on 27th February and 900 on 2nd December (ML. SLJ).

393. **Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis*

Certainly a good year for the species with more records and larger flocks than recorded for some years. Autumn flocks of up to 50 birds were numerous and at Gouthwaite Res. a flock of 70 in August increased to 160 on 23rd September and after 70 on several more dates in that month peaked again on 8th October when 150 were counted. Up to 35 remained during November and 22 in December (PJC. *et al.*). 100 at Fairburn Ings on 23rd September was the maximum there. 110 at Potteric Carr on 12th September and 100 on the 26th (MG. IJI), 90 on Lindley Moor on 7th October (JED), 70 in Bretton Park on 2nd December (NL. JML) and at Almholme on 1st October, several flocks of 50 to 250 birds totalled 500; 200 were there on 18th October and 100 throughout December (JP. RAF).

Passage at Spurn occurred in spring with 200 passing south on 2nd May, 600 on the 7th and 240 on the 8th as peaks. In autumn, passage southwards was strongest in October with 111 on the 30th as the maximum. 100 passed on 2nd November.

394. **Siskin** *Carduelis spinus*

Several gatherings of up to 60 birds, but mainly 20 to 40, were reported from many areas during the winter months. Gouthwaite Res. had a peak of 70 in December (AFGW. *et al.*). 100 were on the Wentworth Estate on 13th February (JIM) and 100 at Bretton Park on 19th November (NL. JMD). 100 at Adel Dam at the end of December. 150 in one alder tree in Bilsdale on 22nd December (DJB).

395. **Linnet** *Acanthis cannabina*

300 feeding near Barnsley on 16th April and 500 at Otley S.F. at the end of September were the largest gatherings reported. Several flocks of up to 200 occurred in the autumn feeding on waste ground, sewage farms and other suitable places.

The roost on Thorne Moor had 500 on 16th October and 1,180 on 2nd December (ML).

Spurn had the usual southerly passage in spring and autumn; 1,561 passed on 8th April and 1,400 on the 14th and 1,408 on 7th May. In autumn, 1,241 on 29th September, 1,593 on the 30th, 660 on 5th October and smaller numbers on most other days during this period.

396. **Twite** *Acanthis flavirostris*

More records were received than usual and the general impression is of a definite increase in the breeding population. At Greenhow Hill, near Pateley Bridge 25 in late September and early October increased to 65 by 13th October, the largest numbers ever seen in Nidderdale (PJC. FAW). Up to 60 were on Sutton Moor on 20th August (DH). 200 at Hardcastle Crags on 19th March increased to 600 on 16th April before dispersing – an exceptional number (DJS). 100 at Widdop in March and 200 near Gorple Res. during April (KS). 45 at Ogden Head, near Halifax on 20th September (DJS). Several smaller parties were reported from the Pennine foothill areas during the winter months and from lowland areas, one to five birds at Faxfleet, Hornsea Mere, Flamborough, Easington, Spurn, South Gare and Fairburn Ings during January to March and September to year-end.

397. **Redpoll** *Acanthis flammea*

In the early months the largest flocks were 100 at Potteric Carr on 9th January, 100 at Gouthwaite Res. on 5th April and 300-400 feeding on birch seeds at Thorganby in the Lower Derwent on 5th February (AFGW). The species was numerous during the autumn, especially in mid-October. The largest flocks were 100 at Adel Dam on 3rd September, 200 at Templenewsam on 15th October, 100 in Roundhay Park, Leeds on 24th October, 100 to 120 at Newmillerdam during September and October and 180 to 250 on Thorne Moor during the same period.

At Spurn, occurred almost daily from 12th October to 12th November with 10 on 18th October and 12 on 21st and 28th, 38 on 4th November, 26 on 5th and 17 on 12th as maxima. Many birds were showing the characters of the Mealy Redpoll *A.f. flammea.* Mealy Redpolls also occured at Filey, Flamborough and South Gare on a few dates from September to early November, mainly singly but two at Flamborough on 29th September. Inland, a few were with Lessers at Bretton Park on 30th October (DS). Two at Southfield Res. on 26th December were Mealies and one to five were with Lessers at Bardsey and Knostrop in December.

398. **Arctic Redpoll** *Acanthis hornemanni*

One caught and ringed at Spurn on 5th November (JC. BRS. DW). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee. There were seven other records during September to December from Norfolk, Suffolk, Orkney and Shetland. See *British Birds* 66, pp. 351-352.

401. **Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Small parties totalling 50 birds were on Thorne Moor on 18th February. Flocks of up to 20 birds were reported from a few places in autumn.

402. **Scarlet Rosefinch** *Carpodacus erythrinus*

An immature at Flamborough Head on 19th and 20th September (DIMW) and one caught and ringed at Spurn on 22nd September (TJB. JCL. BRS. *et al.*).

404. **Crossbill** *Loxia curvirostra*

An influx into the county during July when birds were reported from many widely scattered areas. Maxima were 25 in Grass Wood on the 1st, 20 at Swinton Park and 30 at Helmsley on the 9th, 40 to 50 at Wyming Brook during the month and 40 at Bolton Abbey on the 28th. Smaller numbers were seen from August to the year-end at several places.

406. **Two-barred Crossbill** *Loxia leucoptera*

A ♂ was in a Whitby garden from 3rd to 7th August and was watched at close range by several observers (RHA. AR. AJW. *et al.*). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

408. **Brambling** *Fringilla montifringilla*

600 at Wroot on 3rd January was by far the largest number in the county. The flock decreased to 150 by 22nd February and 30 by 3rd April. 365 were caught and ringed during this period (BMB). 100 to 150 were at Beverley S.F. during February and early March. 100 to 200 were in Bretton Park during November and December (GC. RLB. *et al.*). The last of spring were two at Newmillerdam on 1st May. A ♂ was at Seckar Wood on 25th June (JSW. RLB).

One at Spurn on 14th September was the first of autumn with an obvious influx during early October; 54 were near Pateley Bridge on the 13th, 55 flew over Knaresborough Ringing Station on the 14th and 176 on the 15th. A few flocks of up to 50 were reported thereafter from several areas, with 200 in Bretton Park on 19th November and 160 on 17th December, 80 roosting at Newmillerdam on 29th November and 200 near Cottingham on 22nd December.

409. **Yellowhammer** *Emberiza citrinella*

The only flocks reported were 200 near Fairburn Ings during January, 70 at Knaresborough Ringing Station in December, 100 near Harrogate on 12th December and 150 at a roost on Thorne Moor on 30th January.

410. **Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra*

Reports of flocks in the winter months were few, 30 at Adwick-le-Street S.F. on 19th February, 20 at Wintersett Res. in February and October, 100 roosting in reeds at Wath Ings during the autumn and 30 roosted in reeds at Fairburn Ings during the winter. 100 were on stubbles at Knaresborough Ringing Station at the end of December and 35 were at Marske on the 16th.

Spurn did not have the large numbers recorded in 1971 and the peak movement was during early November with 77 on the 1st and 64 on the 2nd.

415. **Cirl Bunting** *Emberiza cirlus*

A ♂ and ♀ at Seamer Carr, near Scarborough on 22nd October (BGT).

420. **Little Bunting** *Emberiza pusilla*

One at South Gare from 3rd to 7th October was trapped and ringed (DGB. DJB. *et al.*). Accepted by 'BB' Rarities Committee.

416. **Ortolan Bunting** *Emberiza hortulana*

Singles at Spurn on 27th August and 19th September.

421. **Reed Bunting** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Two at Gouthwaite Res. in Upper Nidderdale on 2nd January and singles on the 21st and 31st were of interest as the species is unusual there in winter (AFGW). Several gatherings of 20 to 40 birds were reported in the autumn, some from roosts, the maximum being 100 at Wintersett Res. in December.

422. **Lapland Bunting** *Calcarius lapponicus*

In the early months, eight near Redcar on 1st January and five on 20th February (DJB. JPL). One flew north at Hornsea on 2nd April (WFC) and one was at Spurn on 3rd and 12th April.

Autumn occurrences were numerous with the first at Bempton on 17th December where there were three on the 18th, seven on the 19th, four on the 20th and one on the 23rd (DIMW). Spurn had singles on five September dates from the 19th, four dates in October with three birds on the 1st, two dates in November and one in December. Singles at Easington lagoons and near Redcar on 7th October (DEM), Filey on 14th (RHA), Flamborough on 15th (HOB), South Gare on the 29th, Filey on 25th November (RHA) and Bran Sands on 3rd December (GWF). Five at South Gare on 3rd October (DJB).

423. **Snow Bunting** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

150 at Redcar during January (SCN. GWF), 40 on Bran Sands during February and March and 18 flying north at Hornsea on 2nd April (WFC) were the largest numbers in the early months.

The first of autumn was at Flamborough on 19th September (DIMW) and several other coastal areas recorded birds during that month and to the year-end. Spurn had the largest numbers with up to 30 during the first week of November. On the 17th November three flocks totalling 120 birds flew north-west along the peninsula and there were 55 there on the 26th.

Inland, one was at Lindley Res. on 22nd January (FAW) and in November, there were several records; one at Newton, near Fairburn on the 5th, with two on the 12th and 18th, one near Ossett on the 23rd, one near Lofthouse in upper Nidderdale from 11th November to year-end, singles at Greenhow Hill, Pateley Bridge on the 26th November, Kirby Malzeard, near Ripon on the 3rd December and Gouthwaite Res. on the 26th. Two were on Ingleborough on 27th December.

425. **Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus*

A few flocks of up to 100 birds during the autumn and winter months. 500 were in the Went Valley on 21st February (RA). 445 flew south at Spurn on 30th October and 333 on 3rd November.

One ringed at Adwick-le-Street on 24th April, 1972, was recovered at Inverness on 14th July, 1972, a distance of 475 kms. north-north-west (BMB). One ringed in Holland in October 1971 was caught at Spurn in October 1972.

The following species also occurred in the county during 1972:

**Partridge** *Perdix perdix,* **Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus,* **Razorbill** *Alca torda,* **Puffin** *Fratercula arctica,* **Tawny Owl** *Strix aluco,* **Jackdaw** *Corvus monedula,* **Rook** *Corvus frugilegus,* **Great Tit** *Parus major,* **Marsh Tit** *Parus palustris,* **Willow Tit** *Parus atricapilla,* **Wren** *Troglodytes troglodytes,* **Dipper** *Cinclus cinclus,* **Dunnock** *Prunella modularis,* **Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs,* **House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus.*

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Many others sent in records, all of which were of value for compiling the summaries in this report.